

Your name and address:

Date:

The Honourable Member of Parliament for.....

.....

.....

Dear Member of Parliament,

I wish to bring to your attention the difficulties faced by children and young people with dyspraxia.

Over the past year the Dyspraxia Foundation has been in close consultation with the Department for Children, Schools and Families. This has resulted in greater awareness of the needs of school-children with dyspraxia and the *Dyspraxia Friendly Guidelines for Schools* are now available on the DCSF website.

This is a good start but we urgently need our teachers to be properly trained to identify and support children with dyspraxia.

I am writing to you at this time because The Children's Secretary Ed Balls has recently announced a £10million initiative to train 4,000 teachers to help children with dyslexia.

As with dyslexia, dyspraxia is a 'hidden disability' – you cannot tell just by looking at the children that they have learning difficulties and disabilities.

Children with dyspraxia face many challenges at school; physical clumsiness, poor co-ordination, speech and language problems, communication and organisation difficulties and low self-esteem are just a few of the common problems experienced.

Research shows that a significant number of children*, around 50%, with dyslexia *also have features of dyspraxia*.

There is so much that can be done to help children with dyspraxia, but first we must make sure that teachers know about the condition which affects, on average, two children in each class.

Please help us to open a window of opportunity for those with dyspraxia.

If you have not yet seen the Dyspraxia Friendly Classroom Guidelines you can view or download them at

www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk/services/ed_classroom_guidelines.php

I look forward to hearing from you!

Yours sincerely

Signed

*Kaplan, B. J., Wilson, B., Dewey, D. and Crawford, S. G. (1998) 'DCD May Not Be a Discrete Disorder.' *Human Movement Science* 17, 471-490

Dyspraxia is also sometimes called Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD)