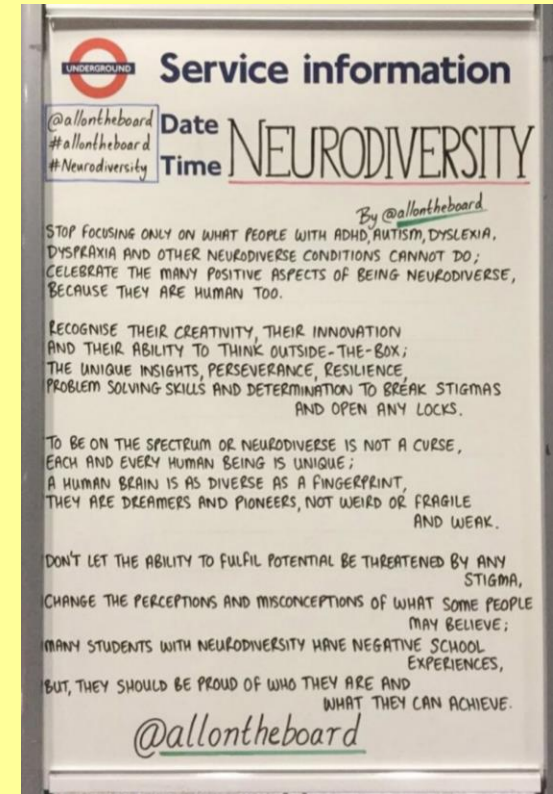




Neurodiversity



How we as adults can remove barriers for children with neurodiversity in school and at home.

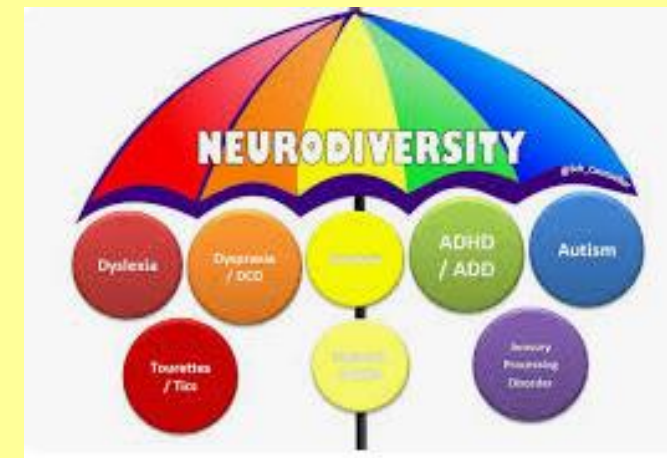


Today's Session will cover...

- What is neurodiversity?
- How to support our neurodivergent children
- Diagnosis and the process
- Graduated Response
- Useful resources



What is Neurodiversity?



- Umbrella term
- Differences in how we think, move, process information or communicate
- Approximately 15 – 20% of the population has a neurological difference
- It's estimated up to 1 in every 10 people in the UK has some degree of dyslexia.
- Global prevalence of ADHD is considered to be between 2 and 7% with an average of 5%.



ADHD



Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

- **Definition:**
Affects people's behaviour. People with ADHD can seem restless, may have trouble concentrating and may act on impulse.
- **Cause:**
Unknown but research has shown possible differences in the brains of people with ADHD when compared to those without the condition.
Other factors such as a low birthweight, premature birth and smoking / drinking / drug abuse during pregnancy are suggested.
ADHD can occur in people of any intellectual ability, although it's more common in people with learning difficulties and is shown to run in families
- **Treatment:**
No cure but can be managed with educational support and advice and support for parents and children at home. Medicine and psychological therapies are often the first treatment offered.



Autism

ASD, ASC, Asperger Syndrome



- **Definition:**

Autistic people may act in a different way to other people.

Their brains work in a different way from other people.

Autistic people have difficulties in social communication, understanding how other people think or feel and can often have sensory needs.

Feelings of anxiety are common and it often takes longer for autistic people to understand information.

Often autistic people will have repeated thoughts.

Like everyone, autistic people have things they're good at as well as things they struggle with.

Being autistic does not mean you can never make friends, have relationships or get a job. But you might need extra help with these things.

Autism is a spectrum.

If you've met one person with autism, you've met one person with autism. Autism presents differently from person to person.

- **Cause:**

No known cause or even if it has a cause.

It is not caused by bad parenting, vaccines, linked to diet or an infection.

- **Treatment:**

Autism is not a medical condition with treatments or a "cure". But some people need support to help them with certain things.



Dyslexia



- **Definition:**
Dyslexia is a common learning difficulty that mainly causes problems with reading, writing and spelling. A person with dyslexia may:
 - read and write very slowly
 - confuse the order of letters in words
 - be confused by letters that look similar and write letters the wrong way round (such as "b" and "d")
 - have poor or inconsistent spelling
 - understand information when told verbally, but have difficulty with information that's written down
 - find it hard to carry out a sequence of directions
 - struggle with planning and organisationBut people with dyslexia often have good skills in other areas, such as creative thinking and problem solving.
- **Cause:**
The exact cause of dyslexia is unknown, but it often appears to run in families. It's thought certain genes inherited from your parents may act together in a way that affects how some parts of the brain develop during early life. Dyslexia isn't related to a person's general level of intelligence. Children and adults of all intellectual abilities can be affected by dyslexia.
- **Treatment / Support:**
Additional educational support, small group work, one to one tuition



Dyspraxia

Developmental Co-ordination Disorder

- **Definition:**

Condition affecting physical co-ordination. It causes a child to perform less well than expected age and activities for their age and appear to move clumsily.

Early milestones such as crawling etc may be delayed.

Cause:

It's not usually clear why co-ordination doesn't develop as well as other abilities in children with DCD but risk factors include premature birth, low birth weight, family history of DCD or mother drinking alcohol or taking illegal drugs while pregnant.

- **Treatment:**

No cure but therapies can help.



Tourette's Syndrome



- **Definition:**
Tourette's syndrome is a condition that causes a person to make involuntary sounds and movements called tics. People with Tourette's syndrome have a combination of physical and vocal tics. It usually starts during childhood, but the tics and other symptoms usually improve after several years and sometimes go away completely. May also have OCD.
- **Cause:**
The cause of Tourette's syndrome is unknown. It's thought to be linked to a part of the brain that helps regulate body movements. There's no cure for Tourette's syndrome, but treatment can help manage symptoms.
- **Treatment:**
Behavioural therapy and medicine.

Co-concurrence

- Where two conditions or more are present in one person
- Conditions already mentioned
- OCD
- Mental health
- Epilepsy
- Insomnia
- Sensory needs



What is the secret to success?

All of the people mentioned may think differently but have all been incredibly successful in their own right.

So, what makes them so successful despite their barriers to learning?



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fy4jz_OQEZM&t=7s

How to develop resilience?

- Build relationships
- Provide open-ended play
- Explicitly teach vocabulary
- Read stories
- Praise
- Community activities
- Celebrate small wins
- Time out



How do we remove barriers?

- Provide equity
- Meet them where they are
- Communicate in their way
- Scaffolding
- Proprioception
- Movement breaks & distraction
- Manageable tasks
- Routine
- Time to process
- Picking battles



Diagnosis and the process

- Graduated response
 - parents and class teacher meet
 - APDR
 - class teacher & SENCo meet to review, class teacher communicates with parents
 - APDR
 - Class teacher, SENCo and parent meet
 - Further APDR and graduated response
- Neurodevelopmental Pathway
- What does a diagnosis mean?



Graduated Response

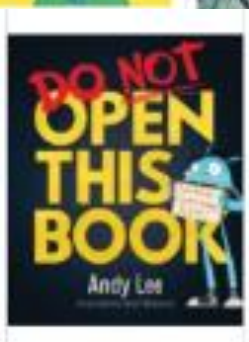
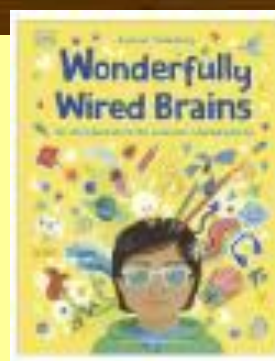
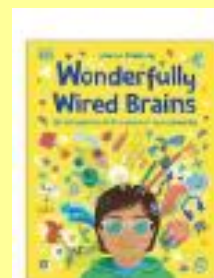
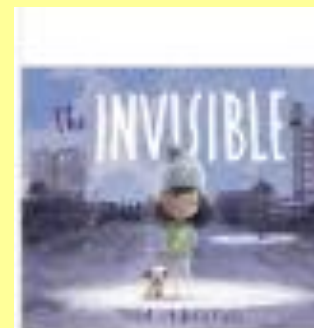
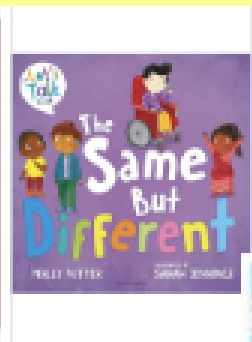
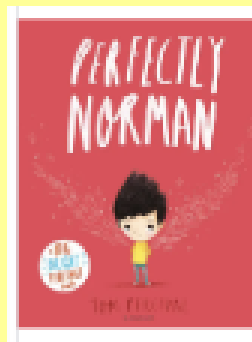
Educational Psychology team advice SENCOs that they must explore ACEs and Trauma before submitting any Neurodevelopmental Pathway paperwork



Useful Websites

- www.neurodiversityweek.com
- www.nhs.uk
- www.adhduk.co.uk
- <https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/> (British Dyslexia Association)
- www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk
- www.autism.org.uk
- www.tourettes-action.org.uk
- www.professionalchoices.org.uk
- www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education
- NDP Phoneline **0303 033 3002** – open 9am to 12pm every Wednesday and Thursday.
- CAOT
- SENDIAS
- Somerset Parent Carer Forum

Useful books



- Wonderfully Wired Brains: An...**
Louise Gooding, 2023
- Leo and the Octopus**
Isabella Martinov, 2021
- Wiggles, Stomps, and Squeezes...**
Lindsey Rowe Parker, 2021
- Benji, the Bad Day, and Me**
Saily J. Pla, 2018
- Aaron Slater, Illustrator**
Andrea Besty, 2021
- What Makes a Lemur Listen?**
Samuel Langley, 2022
- Frankie's World: A Graphic Novel**
Rafea Doolley, 2022
- Noah Chases the Wind**
Michele Worthington, 2015
- A Kind of Spark**
Elie McNeill, 2020
- A Friend for Henry**
Jenn Bailey, 2019
- The Girl who Thought in Picture...**
Julia Finley Moats, 2017
- Neurodiversity! What's That?**
Nadine Arthur, 2022
- This Beach is Loud!**
Samantha Cotterill, 2019
- A Kids Book About...**
Laura Peck The OT Butterfly, 2023
- Why Johnny Doesn't Flap: NT is...**
Gail Morton, 2015
- How to Build a Hug: Temple...**
Amy Guglielmo, 2018