

Harry Jones



Harry is a great kid. He is passionate for life, his friends, sport and outdoors activities.

Harry has a strong sense of social justice, and tends to 'stick up for' those who are struggling. He is a loyal friend and a good team member.

Learning Disability

Harry has been diagnosed with Dyslexia. It is a genetic condition which runs in our family. Dyslexia means that even though he is reasonably intelligent, he has trouble with reading, writing and spelling. This is due mainly to faulty processing of the phonological (sounds) structure of words.

What this means for Harry

Reading

Harry will be able to learn to read, but the rate of learning is slow. He is currently about 2 years below the average class level for reading skills. His comprehension is a little better (because he can guess what is going on) but still well below curriculum standard.

Writing and spelling

Harry's writing is weak, probably because he doesn't like doing it and hasn't practiced much. He does find it hard to get his thoughts on paper, and this may be because he takes so much effort to get the words and spelling.

Learning

Unfortunately Harry's Dyslexia affects all areas of learning that have written work. He is reasonably good with maths, but struggles to understand word problems.

Harry is also generally a bit disorganised. Again, this is probably because he finds learning hard and hasn't put in the effort.

Harry is a sensitive boy. He is easily embarrassed, particularly in front of his mates. He knows he has a learning disability but doesn't like talking about it.

Our goals for Harry

We know this problem is going to impact on his schooling through to the end of year 12.

By the end of year 12 we believe it is more important that Harry has good self-esteem and a positive attitude to learning, than his actual reading abilities. We know that when he finds something he loves, he will manage and work around any reading, writing and spelling challenges.

Across this year

Our main goal for Harry is to become more realistic about what to expect for himself. He still has a sense that he should be as good as the other kids in his class, so he is easily frustrated.

We would like him to take credit and pride in his effort and successes, even though his level of achievement may still be poor compared to other kids. He is easily embarrassed and humiliated.

In the classroom we are hoping to find a way to work around his reading problems so that he can remain successful with the other subjects.

In the past

We have done a fair bit of work with Harry to help him with his reading. In school he has had reading support (he was 'caught in the net'), and at home we have had a tutor for him once a week.

Who is involved

Currently we are having a break from tutoring, but may start it up this year sometime. We see our Paediatrician once a year for a general review. We belong to the SPELD organisation and attend some of their seminars.

All of the family know about Harry's reading problem and we try to support him as best we can.

Currently

Our hope is to build relationships with those who deal with Harry so that everybody understands his strengths and weaknesses, and can work with us to support him as much as possible.