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A brief Overview of some Specific Learning Difficulties (SLD)

Specific Learning Difficulties are **difficulties**, not **deficiencies**. With a positive and supportive learning environment, children with any SLD can achieve their potential.

English as an Additional Language

When a student with a First Language other than English comes to a new school in another country, the initial stage is one in which he/she will be very quiet as they observe and assimilate cultural differences, as well as classroom practices.

The tuition room is a very safe place in which to “have-a-go”, take risks and make mistakes whilst practising English. First Language interference will continue for some time but then lessen as the child becomes more confident and competent with the grammar.

Dyscalculia

Dyscalculia affects learning in numeracy, particularly basic number facts. It also means that operations such as division can be challenging. In one-on-one tuition, concrete objects are used to understand the concepts of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, and the connection between these operations.

Open-ended, multi-sensory tasks are also planned, to encourage the student to “experiment” with maths and build up their confidence.

Dyslexia

Dyslexia is neurological in origin and it is likely that an adult family member will also have it. It affects learning in one or more of the following areas: spelling, reading and writing. Intervention needs to be continuous as dyslexia is not something you grow out of, nor will it improve automatically. One-to-one specialist intervention teaches explicit phonemic awareness engaging all of the senses, in a structured and sequential way.

Some well-known dyslexics include Walt Disney, Jamie Oliver and Tom Cruise.