

Pedagogical Toolbox

Educational tips

How to adapt documents for pupils with SLD

Objective:

In order to create an inclusive learning environment accessible to all students, including those with learning disabilities, small adaptations are necessary for the writing and presentation of documents.

Context/explanation:

There is no fully reliable estimation of the number of “Dys” in Europe – as each country uses a different medical definition – but together, these SLDs are believed to affect 10% of the population to a lesser or greater extent (European Parliament). In the EU, it would represent approximately 2,4 million students in primary schools alone (Eurostat).

Adaptations:

Simple adaptations can facilitate learning for these students with learning disabilities.

- Use an adapted font for written guidelines (Arial, Century Gothic, OpenDys);
- Use an adapted spacing of 1,5 in between the lines;
- The font should be between 12 and 14 in size;

- The text should not be justified but aligned to the left;
- The text should be broken down into smaller paragraphs and short, clear sentences;
- If you print the document, print on one side only to avoid having to turn pages;
- Structure your papers with clearly distinguishable titles, subtitles, etc.;
- Use colours to separate information, but be consistent in your colour codes;
- If you print the document, try to use off-white or pastel-coloured paper whenever possible.