

The
Dyslexia-SpLD
Trust

CASE STUDY

The British Dyslexia Association (BDA) Children Will Shine Project



Funded by:



Department for Education

Children will Shine

A Project by **British Dyslexia**
Association

The British Dyslexia Association is a UK national charity that aims to support the 10% of the population that have dyslexia and related difficulties. The BDA offers support and advice through its national helpline and through its network of 62 Local Dyslexia Associations (LDAs).

A number of Local Dyslexia Associations run very successful after-school or Saturday morning workshops in church halls and schools, supporting dyslexic children with additional literacy, maths and self-esteem issues.

The Children Will Shine Project has been designed to support children with dyslexia and/or specific learning difficulties, as well as being priced for parents and children that are on the government indices of deprivation.

The children are taught literacy skills, dyslexia coping strategies, positive self-esteem and numeracy, (where needed), using specialist qualified dyslexia teachers. The specialist teacher is supported by a team of teaching assistants that have BDA training (or are working towards) up to OCN level 3 in Dyslexia and Co-occurring Conditions.

With this training, teaching assistants can augment dyslexia awareness in their local

schools, assisting the project to support over 45,000 dyslexic people over the next five years.

The current rate for private tuition with a specialist SpLD qualified teacher, is between £35-£70 per hour, taking into account regional differences. The Children Will Shine Project aims to create a sustainable project at a cost effective price of about £15 per 1.5hrs, to enable families from all walks of life to access the support for their children.



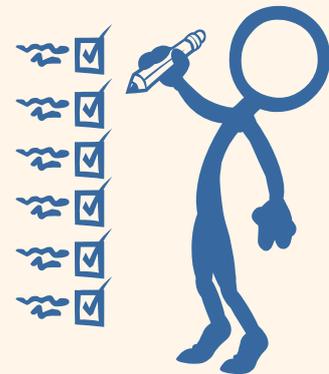
The Project So Far:

The BDA has established seven after school workshops nationally.

One of our London groups has been running for over 12 months and has seen a tangible and positive impact on the lives of a number of children. Having a group of children all with similar learning experiences gives the children confidence, and the realisation that they are not alone in experiencing these difficulties.

The Children Will Shine workshops support children on a number of levels. Initial results show increases in confidence and a greater willingness to engage socially, and to interact more with others in their classroom lessons increasing the effectiveness of learning in school. Literacy skills are a key focus of the project and as these improve through taking part in the workshop, so self-esteem has also been found to increase.

The other group in London has highlighted the need for dyslexia support within the local authority (LA). Over 60% of the children that were referred to the project by the LA in the last six months have had to pay for a private Educational Psychologist's assessment.



This group is growing well and has the support of outside agencies such as Parent Partnership to support parents through the LA referral process. The group has also empowered parents to support each other for example with the choice of secondary schools and other aspects that have shown positive improvements in the lives of the children and their families. These parents and children have really come together as a coherent group. The project in Manchester exemplifies the core team values of support, with a specialist teacher and teaching assistants thoroughly behind supporting and empowering dyslexic children. The use of computer software has enhanced the learning process for the children and the teaching assistants, encouraging the children to improve their literacy skills and their self-esteem in this area of deprivation.



In Conclusion:

The Children Will Shine Project shows that bringing children with dyslexia together in an environment of informed teaching and support is effective in raising literacy skills and self-esteem in those children. It is also valuable for the children to share experiences and positive outcomes.

The project provides parents with a cost effective way to access specialist intervention, which can ultimately improve the present life experience of the children at home and at school. Children who have been attending classes for more than one term have shown significant progress in achieving their individual literacy targets. This is likely to improve the likelihood of them reaching their future potential.

Contact us:
British Dyslexia Association
T: 0845 251 9003
E: arrans@bdadyslexia.org.uk



The individuals represented in these photographs are not models. The photographs were taken during Trust activities but individuals may not be involved in this specific work described and are used only to illustrate the case study.