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IKB Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Information

In each information leaflet, we will be looking at a different special educational need and providing some 'go to' links for our families. The reasons for this are multiple:

- **To support families who have a child already diagnosed/ or are in the process of being diagnosed, with this need.**
- **To educate the wider school community, about the wide-ranging special educational needs that we both experience and support at IKB.**
- **To continue building a school community that is knowledgeable, inclusive and supportive towards all children with SEND at IKB.**

This week's focus is: **DCD – Developmental Co-ordination Disorder** (formally known as Dyspraxia):

Overview: is believed that around 5% of the population have DCD and it is thought to be 3-4 times more common in boys. It is also known to run in families as well, from generation to generation. It is a physical condition affecting coordination/ organisation/ sequencing and can also be 'verbal', affecting a child's speech and language abilities e.g. working out which words to use/ how to say them/ processing speeds/ organising and sequencing ideas/ memory and volume – all of which most of us manage to coordinate successfully without even having to think about.

For children with DCD (verbal and/ or physical) life can be extremely challenging and unfair as meeting 'normal milestones' can be so difficult e.g. walking/ jumping/ swimming/ cycling/ hand-to-eye coordination/ ball skills/ handwriting. These children are often labelled as clumsy/ unclear speakers ('mumblers')/ weak at sport/ messy workers. They are often the children rarely picked for sport teams, or games on the playground.

Children with DCD may feel negatively about their poor handwriting, or for talking too loudly in class, for not learning the rules of a game quickly, or for being too rough with their peers. It is crucial to remember that these children will not be doing these things on purpose, or too annoy anyone. They need extra time, support, understanding and recognition for what they find hard to change, and to achieve.

Diagnosis: If a child displays *many* of these traits, then a combined referral to Occupational Therapy/ Speech and Language Therapy/ Physical Therapy may be suggested. Although a diagnosis will not change, or 'fix' life for a child with DCD, it may help them to be understood, and more importantly - to understand themselves.

Weblinks for parents/ carers:

- [Developmental co-ordination disorder \(dyspraxia\) in children - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)
- [Developmental Coordination Disorder DCD Fact Sheet Understood.pdf \(ctfassets.net\)](http://ctfassets.net)
- CanChild
- [Tips for Helping Children with Developmental Co-Ordination Disorder | Sensational Kids](http://Sensational Kids)

If you have any questions or concerns relating to your child, regarding DCD, then do please contact our SEND team via the school office.

Mr Healey
IKB Headteacher and Primary Executive Headteacher of The Castle Partnership Trust