

Dyslexia Courses Ireland

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Useful websites/APPS/resources for teachers

- **Anki** www.ankiapp.com is a program which makes remembering things easy. "Anki" is the Japanese word for 'memorization'. Examples of its use are for language learning, memorising facts etc. As students study, it learns how well they know each flashcard, then prioritizes them, so students study the things they don't know, without wasting precious time on the things they already know. It offers pre-made cards from sources such as Quizlet or you can make your own.
- **BBC Bitesize** www.bbc.com/education Bitesize is the BBC's free online study support resource for students in both schoolwork and exams. Included in the website are
 - Help with revision with videos on topics such as:
 - How to make mindmaps.
 - Using sound to revise.
 - Managing time.
 - Coping with the exam.
 - Notes on many subjects such as Science, Engineering, English, Languages etc.
 - For teachers there are videos to support class teaching on Art and Design, Science, Design Technology, English Literature, Mandarin, Maths etc.
- **BBC Skillswise** www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise enables adults to improve reading, writing and number skills through videos, worksheets, quizzes and games. In English there are sections on reading, writing, spelling, grammar and sentences. In Maths the sections are numbers, calculations, percentages and fractions, measuring, shapes and graphs. There are 38 computer games that can help with Maths. Much of the material could be used with small groups of students who have literacy or numeracy difficulties.
- **Classtools** www.classtools.net create free games, quizzes, activities, diagrams in seconds. No signup, no passwords, no charge. Some of the tools are:
 - Create fake facebook profiles for historical or fictional characters.
 - Convert tests into PAC-MAN games or Dustbin game generator.
 - Random number picker
 - Diagrams, Venn, Post-its and qwikslides allows the making of multimedia presentation in seconds.
- **Dashlane** www.dashlane.com helps by storing logins, passwords etc. and keeping them secure. The free version allows 50 to be stored.
- **Dictation.io** <https://dictation.io/> allows the student to dictate paragraphs to the computer, and save them.
- **EnglishForEveryone** www.englishforeveryone.org has extensive printable English worksheets catering for all ability levels of students. There are worksheets on

comprehension, writing, grammar, phonics, etc. It is possible to use any of the materials on this website without asking permission, granted that the copyright policy is respected.

- **Google classroom** (www.classroom.google.com) **Classdojo** (www.classdojo.com) **Edmodo** (www.edmodo.com) All three help with managing assignments, and communication with students and allows students to connect with each other to work collaboratively. Some allow for the student to ask the teacher questions privately. Student progress can be tracked. Teachers recommend students have a school email address for access.
- **Grammarly** www.grammarly.com makes sure everything typed is easy to read, effective, and mistake-free. It corrects over 250 types of grammatical mistakes while also catching contextual spelling errors and poor vocabulary usage. Correctly spelled words used in the wrong context are identified such as erroneous use of *lose/loose, affect/effect, lie/lay, there/their/they're*, and many other commonly confused words. For spell checkers specifically for dyslexia, look up Verity, Ginger and Ghotit at www.bdatech.org/what-technology/spell-checkers
- **History Matters** www.historymatters365.com. This website has been created as a resource for Irish secondary school history students and teachers. The site is a mix of videos, images, notes, links, inter-activities, a blog, etc.
- **Kahoot!** www.kahoot.com is a free game-based learning platform that makes it fun to learn – any subject, in any language, on any device. When Kahoot! is played in a group setting, questions appear on a shared screen and players answer on their devices. The teacher can assign kahoots as homework by sending learning games for revision and reinforcement. Many of the teachers on the courses are already using Kahoot! and all recommend it highly.
- **Keda Publications** www.kedapublications.co.uk. *Stareway to Spelling*: The methods within *Stareway to Spelling* ensure that the 300 most used words can be committed to long-term memory and recalled at will by the student. Each spelling section is preceded by reading tests and exercises that ensure that the student is familiar with the words. This **can reinforce the confidence of weak readers**, or be part of a teaching plan involving Toe By Toe. *Stride Ahead* is a study book which is written for students who can read, but who have difficulty in understanding and comprehending written text. They can be too occupied with the mechanics of **decoding** the written language. Both publications were well recommended by participants on the teachers' courses who are using them.
- **Miss Stouts History** www.youtube.com/channel/UCwSRyMOwB_mw8ZFmyiRPS7g Videos and powerpoints on topics for LC and JC History. For example, there are 13 videos for 2nd year History. Uses Powtoon to create the videos.
- **Memory Training**
 - **Memory Quest**: www.edtech.ie/product/memory-quest-flex-special-education-1-year. This programme provides working memory training. It has been developed based on recent scientific findings on training of cognitive skills. The programme is adaptive i.e. automatically adjust the difficulty level based on the performance of the trainee.

Memory Quest have been produced with financial support from the Swedish National Agency for Special Needs Education and Schools.

- **Dyslexia Quest:** www.nessy.com/uk/dyslexia-quest/ Dyslexia Quest tests memory and learning skills. The games are designed to assess working memory, phonological awareness, processing speed, visual memory, auditory memory and sequencing skills. It has been developed, researched and tested at the Bristol Dyslexia Centre. The app is designed for a single player and does not support simultaneous multiple users. There are three age ranges: 7-10 years, 11-16 years and 17+. Cost is €11.55
- **My study bar** www.mystudybar.blogspot.ie is a toolbar of support for students with literacy difficulties. The free download provides support on the desktop of the PC and is accessible on a portable USB stick. There are 6 categories of tools covering reading, writing, planning, vision, voice and help.
- **Prizmo App** www.creaceed.com/prizmo: Take a picture of text with a smartphone and Prizmo reads it aloud. It uses Optical Character Recognition (OCR) in 23 languages. It works with pictures taken with the iPhone, iPad, or digital camera. Each word is highlighted as it is pronounced.
- **Quizlet** www.quizlet.com makes simple learning tools such as flashcards and games, all for free.. As of November 2015, Quizlet has over 100 million user-generated flashcard sets in a vast range of subjects from Sciences, to English, to Home Economics and Languages. It has an interactive option where the students work in small teams to learn a Quizlet study set and race against the rest of the class. One disadvantage is that there can be errors in the sets of Flashcards etc. **One tip from a teacher is to pay €30 and it allows you download from the site. You can then correct any errors and you have invaluable resources that are accurate.**
- **Scoilnet** www.scoilnet.ie Official education portal of the Department of Education and Skills in Ireland. Extensive curriculum focused resources and support for post primary subjects.
- **SimpleMind** www.simplemind.eu is a mindmapping app. A limited version is available free. It also has some instruction on the making of mind.
- **Study jams!** www.studyjams.com helps students understand the underlying concepts of math and science through real world examples, so they are better able to solve individual problems. They can be used to complement existing lesson plans. It includes videos, music and songs, step-by-step math instruction, or slideshows. Plus quizzes on every topic reinforce comprehension.
- **StudySmart – Apps for Reading, Writing & Organisation.** Enable Ireland’s Assistive Technology Service and the Dyslexia Association of Ireland have collaborated to produce a free learning resource outlining free and low cost apps and software to support literacy. This eLearning module should be of interest to parents, students, teachers and other professionals working with people with dyslexia. The link is http://atcourse.org/xerte2-1/play.php?template_id=154

- **Study Stack** www.studystack.com This site allows the student use existing sets of flashcards or the teacher or student can prepare their own. The flashcards can be used for learning and then there are games. The teacher who recommended the site suggested the games to use are the matching quiz, the test, but not the chopped or scrambled letters or the Bug Match. I really liked this site. It was very approachable.
- **Team Games Tournament** is a great way to revise. The link to a full explanation is <https://www.instructionalleadership.ie/index.php/resources/resources/classrooms/19-teams-games-tournament>. Up to 40 key questions and answers are prepared in sheets. The group is divided into teams and following the instructions, play a competitive game to see which team gets the greatest number of correct answers.
- **Tinycards** <https://tinycards.duolingo.com> is a flashcards app from the team who developed Duolingo. There are sets of flashcards on the site or it is possible to create a set.
- **Thugnotes** www.wisecrack.co/thug-notes/. Gives video summaries of books/plays from Shakespeare, Austen, Mark Twain, etc. It is very different, done in rap style.
- **Typing Club** www.typingclub.com is a free online program that helps students learn and improving their typing speed. It includes 650 typing games, typing tests and videos. It provides instant feedback as well as summarized speed and accuracy assessments at the end of each lesson. Teachers can access all the same data that students see, and they can monitor students' real-time and overall progress.
- **UCC Assistive Technology Outreach** www.ucc.ie/en/dss/atoutreach/ UCC has a Disability Support Service which runs free training in a variety of Assistive Technology for educators, parents and students within their catchment area. The website also has videos on a wide range of assistive technology such as:
 - Converting text to audio using Read and Write Gold
 - Making teaching and learning materials accessible
 - Overview of assistive technology for writing difficulties
 - Touchtyping advice and resources
 - Using MS Word to help with reading difficulties
 - Using mind-mapping for schoolwork and homework
- **Websites to make infographics/posters/infomercials/videos**
 The following websites have been recommended for making information more accessible. They are really useful for making presentations or for learning material visually. All have a free access option. The student and/or teacher can use templates, icons, graphs, charts to visually display and communicate key points. They add visual interest through shapes, frames, graphics, colour etc., and can be customised with personal images. **Canva** and **Vennage** provide many things including templates for infographics and study skills. **Mentimeter** is an easy-to-use presentation software. **Powtoon** allows the addition of images and sound to make animated videos. **Spark.adobe** can be used to create web pages and video stories. **Storyboard that** is a graphic organizer in the form of illustrations or images displayed in sequence for the purpose of pre-visualizing a motion picture, animation, motion graphic or interactive media sequence. **Tellegami** is a mobile app that lets one create and share a quick animate Gami video.

- www.canva.com
 - www.mentimeter.com
 - www.powtoon.com
 - <https://spark.adobe.com/>.
 - www.storyboardthat.com
 - www.tellegami.com
 - www.venngage.com
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- **WorksheetsWorks** www.worksheetworks.com. This site has 100's of worksheets that can be adapted to whatever the teacher wants. It has materials for Maths, English, Geography and puzzles. It is possible to make up your own Word Searches. It has Graphic Organisers.
 - **Padlet** www.padlet.com, **Twinkl** www.twinkl.com and **Triptico** www.tripticoplus.com are websites with resources for teachers and the ability to generate new resources tailor-made. These sites are subscription based.
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