

Hilary Green of Churchill writes about;

## A CHILD AND PARENT

### SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

**T**HERE SEEMS TO BE an increase in the numbers of children who have 'dyslexic' or similar learning problems, and with the very real financial constraints put on Local Education Authorities, it is becoming harder and harder for schools to teach them effectively.

These children need understanding, time and guidance from teachers who have a special insight into how they function in the classroom and beyond. These children are often bright and articulate, but fail to learn to read, spell or write successfully. They may also show signs of clumsiness, unco-ordination, disorganisation and hyper-activity. They seem to let words go in one ear and straight out the other. They may be asthmatic, suffer from eczema, or show food intolerances.

Having spent ten years teaching these children to cope better with their learning difficulties, I have now become convinced that the priority should be to find the reason why there is a learning difficulty in the first place, identify and finally remove it, so that the symptoms of the learning difficulty then diminish. It is a bit like always taking an aspirin for persistent headaches, instead of trying to find the cause of the headaches in the first place.

Many different professionals work with this group of the population; Nutritionists, Optometrists, Chiropractors, Educational Psychologists and Sound Therapists to name but a few. All can have a tremendous impact on the quality of a particular child's life. The major problem I see facing caring parents trying to get the best possible advice for their child is that they really don't know which professional to turn to, and which one first? It's all a bit of a hit and miss affair.

I don't begin to claim that I have all the answers! Far from it. What I do have however, are broad based links with other like-minded professionals, which has enabled me to develop an inter-disciplinary screening and remediation service.

As the adverts say in extolling the usefulness of 'Yellow Pages', "Let your fingers do the walking". Fill in an Interdisciplinary Questionnaire and let me help you decide the best course of action for your child. You have everything to gain.

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