



Neurodiversity in kids

Neurodiversity refers to natural variation in brain function and development. This means we can have different ways of thinking, learning, and processing information.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD):

ASD is a developmental difference that affects social interaction, communication, and behaviour. Kids diagnosed with ASD may exhibit differences in their expression and interpretation of social cues, communication style, sensory input, behaviours and specific interests. Autistic kids are often great at noticing things that others miss, they can be highly sensitive and passionate.

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD):

ADHD is a neurodevelopmental difference that affects regulation of attention, hyperactivity, and impulses. Kids diagnosed with ADHD may have difficulty focussing, organizing their things, and controlling impulses in specific settings, often school. Those with ADHD might hyperfocus on interests, they can be quick witted, great problem solvers, and bring great energy and enthusiasm.

Dyslexia:

Dyslexia is a learning difference affecting reading. Kids with dyslexia may have difficulty decoding words, spelling accurately, and comprehending what they are reading. They can also be fabulous story tellers, highly empathic friends and great problem solvers.

Dyspraxia:

Dyspraxia is a learning difference affecting movement and coordination. Kids with dyspraxia may have difficulty with gross motor skills, fine motor skills, and planning and executing movements. Kids with dyspraxia can also be very caring, show grit and determination, and creativity.

Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD):

SPD is a developmental difference that affects the way in which the brain processes sensory information. Kids with SPD may be over or under-responsive to certain sensations, sometimes leading to discomfort or distraction. These kids can also be highly attuned to their own bodies, their environments, and the feelings of others.

It is important to know about neurodiversity because it helps us understand one another and to appreciate the unique strengths and challenges that neurodivergent kids bring to the classroom.