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How Nessy helps the progress of children with Dyslexia.



What is Dyslexia?

"Dyslexia is a learning difficulty that primarily affects the skills involved in accurate and fluent word reading and spelling."

The British Dyslexia Association (2018)

Dyslexia is a lifelong condition which is described as a neurological difference, signs and symptoms can differ with age and can range from mild to serve.







The national college (2020)

School age symptoms

Children aged 5 to 12

www.nhs.uk

- Inconsistent and unpredictable spelling.
- Trouble learning letter sounds.
- Mixing up letters and figures (such as "6" and "9", or "b" with "d").
- Mixing up order of letters in words.
- Poor and slow handwriting.
- Struggling with sequences such as directions to a task or a place, learning the days of the week or alphabet.
- Difficulties reading, missing words, losing place (children may complain the words move around or the page appears blurred).
- Poor phonological awareness
- Difficulties taking dictation or copying written work.









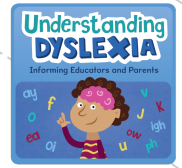






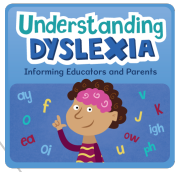
What is Nessy















Nessy is a Literacy based programme designed to help children of all abilities, especially those with learning difficulties.

There are a range of multi sensory resources to assist children in learning to read, write, spell and type.

Nessy reading and spelling is an award winning multi sensory resources for primary literacy. Which has been designed by specialists at Bristol Dyslexia Centre and is based on Orton-Gillingham approach to teaching reading and spelling.

Nessy.com (2017)

Who are the people behind Nessy





Mike Jones founded Nessy in 1999 after he struggled through school, college and university with dyslexia.

Pat Jones a former Maths and special education teacher, founded the Bristol Dyslexia Centre after she had home schooled Mike using the Orton-Gillingham approach.

Nessy.com (2017)



Samuel Torrey Orton a neuropsychiatrist and pathologist identified Dyslexia as early as 1925, Dr Orton in 1930 encourage Anna Gillingham a talented educator and psychologist to publish instructional material, which has been used for over 90 years to provide a person cantered approach to assisting children with dyslexia improve their literacy skills. ortonacademy.org (2018)



Nessy who and how

Who is it for?

- The program can be used for children aged 5 to 11, however older children my find it helpful.
- Children of all abilities and learning needs can benefit from using the program.

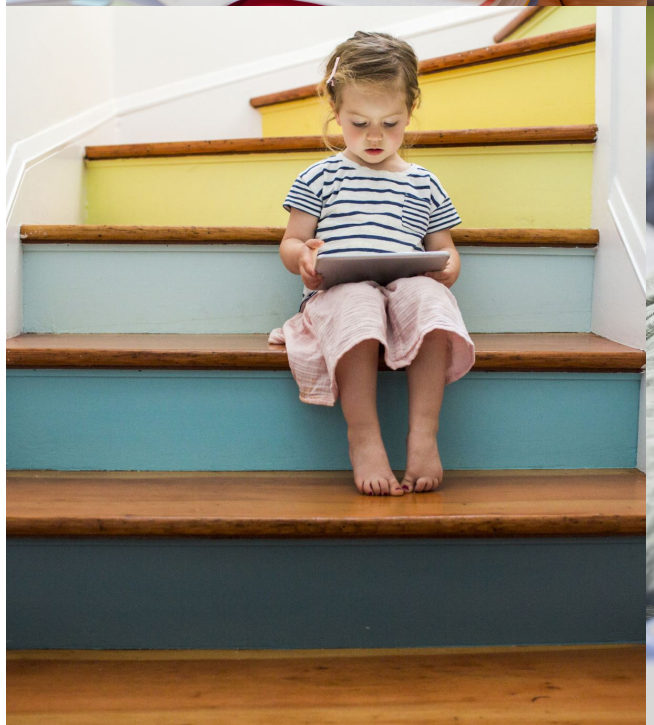
How can it be used?

- The programs can be accessed on most technology.
- In school and at home.

Nessy.com (2017)









Benefits of Nessy

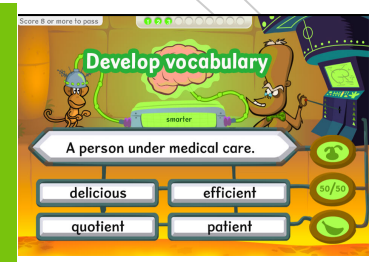


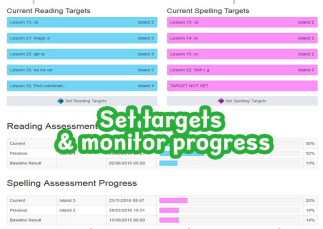
When children start using the Nessy programs they take an assessment which analyses their baseline ability.

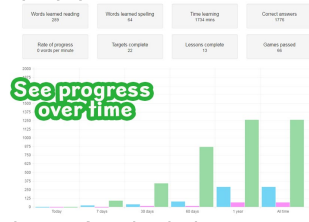
Games and activities are then personally pitched to the learners ability, helping to boost the learners self esteem.

The program also allows teachers and parents to see the progress the learner is make and what areas they my be struggling.

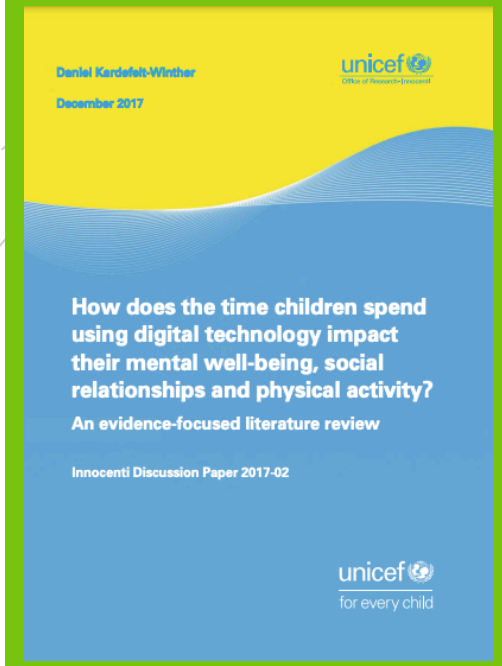
Nessy.com (2017)







Is there a downside?



The answer to that question is not a clear YES or NO.
As Nessy is an online resource this means that children are stuck in front of a laptop or tablet. So what impact does this have on children's social skills?

Unicef produced a discussion paper on this topic, they found It depends on a number of factors…

- How much time is a child spending using technology
- Has the child become dependant on technology
- Is the technology being used for the right reason

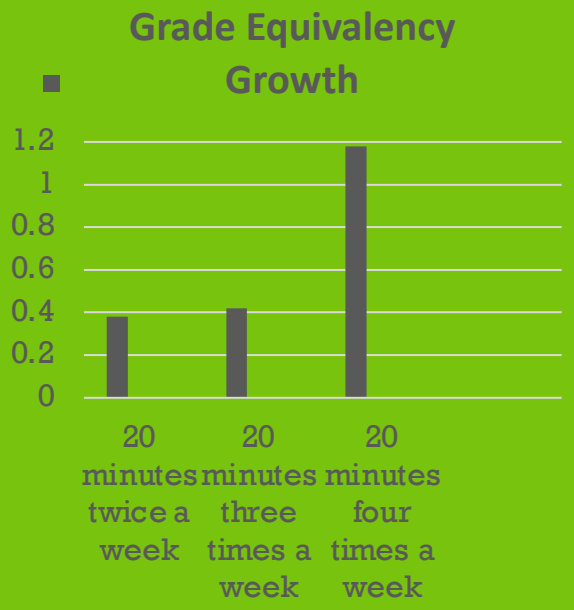
Daniel Kardefelt Winther(2017)

How we know it works

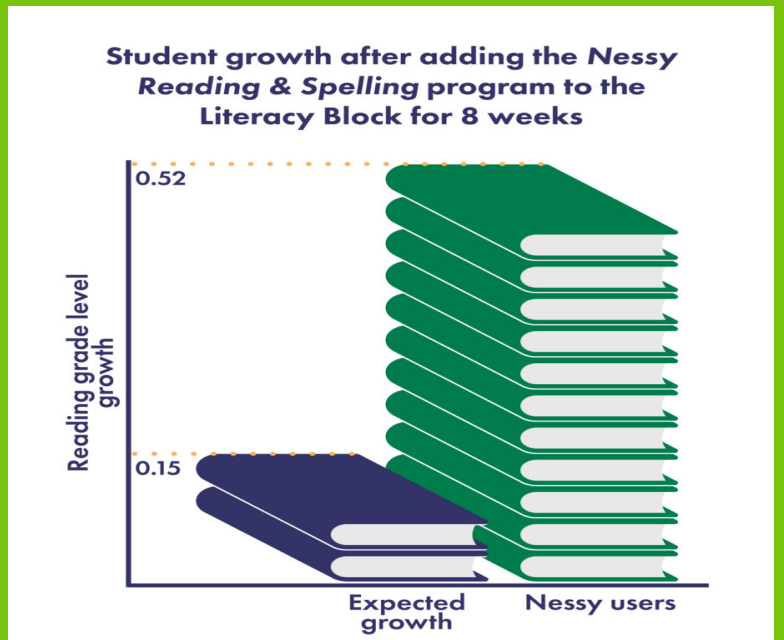
Julie Lewis a SENco at Boxgrove Primary School, conducted here own in house research project on exploring how Nessy's dyslexia reading and spelling programme supports the motivation of children in the improvement of reading and writing skills. In her report she highlighted Nessy's success, however to get a true vision the study would have to be done over a longer period.

Julia Lewis (2017)

Research carried out by the Nessy team



A case study done at Godley school
In June 2019 showed that 80 minutes is the magic number.
Nessy.com (2017)



Where Nessy fits in the literacy and dyslexia policies.



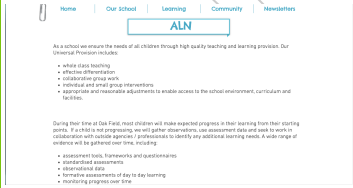






There are many schools in Wales which have undergone a restructure to comply with the new ALN bill, they are moving away from specialist teachers and out of class interventions. Staff are now retraining to accommodate and provided assistance so all children within the classroom. As Nessy is for all abilities this means it's a whole class approach rather then an intervention. gov.wales (2012)

Schools have a SpLD policy, with the new reforms it has become the class teacher and teaching assistance role to make sure each child is getting a fair and appropriate education. Multi-sensory techniques are used to facilitate learning. Enabling the children to access the curriculum through differentiated tasks and resources. School A (2020)





What have we learned

Technology is becoming an important part of everyday life and learning strategies are embracing this, schools are introducing more online resources which the children can access to improve their learning.

These resources can help bring schools in to alignment with the new ALN bill, with in class personal centred learning, supporting the child and the teacher.

Research is showing a huge improvement, that programs such as Nessy's reading and spelling can have on a child with dyslexia, not just in their literacy skills but also on their well being. However are we exposing children to over use of technology and what impact is this having. As the world moves forward, more research is needed to be able to see a true insight to the influence of technology on our children's social relationships.



[School A] (2020) [School A] Relationships policy. Vale of Glamorgan: [School A]. Unpublished.

References