

How to Support Clients with Dyspraxia

A certification course for HANDLE® providers

Overview

This course is for you if:

- You would like to develop your skills in working with clients who are diagnosed with or believe they have dyspraxia and/or
- You might like to explore providing paid HANDLE services through Oxford Specialist Tutors'

Whatever your current level of HANDLE certification, upon successful completion of the course:

- You will deepen your understanding of what the label of "dyspraxia" means to parents and clients
- You will gain understanding of the relationship between the label of dyspraxia, possible affected systems and their implications for learning challenges and education
- You will gain insights into how to guide parents and clients to understand how HANDLE can help and how to engage them in HANDLE programs

In addition, upon successful completion of the course, **Screeners** and **Interns** will be certified to use the HANDLE Activities covered in the course immediately in their work, without supervision.

(For general background on what dyspraxia is, see this article: [Dyspraxia – What it is, challenges, how to overcome it.](#))

Prerequisites

The minimum requirement for attending this course is HANDLE Screener certification.

Screener students whose course is no longer meeting, and who have been sending in assignments – you're welcome to talk to us.

Background

The motivation for developing this program came from Margo Fourman, HANDLE Intern and Founder of Oxford Specialist Tutors.

Oxford Specialist Tutors has more demand for HANDLE services than it has HANDLE providers who can serve its clients.

Most of Oxford Specialist Tutors' clients identify as having dyspraxia, and so Oxford Specialist Tutors has a need for more providers who can serve these clients. Therefore it is useful to understand what the clients themselves understand as dyspraxia.

NOTE: We use the phrase 'identify as having dyspraxia' as a shorthand to refer to people who meet any of the following criteria:

- Have been officially diagnosed with dyspraxia
- Whose parents/caretakers *believe* they have dyspraxia (with no official diagnosis)
- Who themselves *believe* they have dyspraxia (with no official diagnosis)

Clearly, as HANDLE providers we are well aware that we do not "treat" labels and we do not refer to clients by label. *When clients come to us with a label it is important that we respect their self-identification.*

We relate to them as unique individuals. We evaluate our clients and determine their areas of ability and difference. We MUST be very careful not to assume that the label with which someone comes to us is indicative of the issues/concerns that they actually have. During this course you will learn about a cluster of concerns that are often associated with the label of Dyspraxia. You will also learn what can be done about these particular concerns from a HANDLE point of view. We clearly will not "label" a client. We will, instead, understand the label and what it *could* mean.

Upon successful completion of the course, if you are interested in working with Oxford Specialist Tutors, they will likely be able to provide you with paid client work. (More on that below.)

The course has been designed by Dror Schneider and Margo Fourman and is approved by the Education Circle.

Course Outline

The course will be delivered online via Zoom.

The course will be composed of nine sessions. Each session will be two hours long.

Session 1

- The professional and public understanding of the label of dyspraxia
- An overview of the common educational and life challenges that people who identify as having dyspraxia experience
- The relationship of the HANDLE approach to the label of dyspraxia
- Additional HANDLE Activities:
 - Angels in the Snow
 - Ball Back Roll

Session 2

- Additional HANDLE Activities:
 - Peacemaker Massage
 - Joint Tapping

Session 3

- Sunrise Sunset variations
- Specific considerations about changes in state associated with dyspraxia
- More background on the label of dyspraxia
 - Dyspraxia definitions
 - How to relate to the label of dyspraxia from the HANDLE perspective
 - More about the life experiences of people who identify as having dyspraxia

Session 4

A deep dive into how the educational and life challenges of people who identify as having dyspraxia relate to the HANDLE approach, affected systems, and HANDLE Activities:

- Gross motor control
- Fine motor control
- Social interactions

Session 5

Continuing the deep dive into how the educational and life challenges of people who identify as having dyspraxia relate to the HANDLE approach, affected systems, and HANDLE Activities:

- Working memory

- Processing speed
- Homework, classwork and life
- Math
- Language

Session 6

- More on the kinds of dyspraxia clients may mention
- The common, special thinking styles often associated with people who identify as having dyspraxia:
 - Cloud thinking (benefits and challenges)
 - Communication
- Supporting people who identify as having dyspraxia through their developmental journey:
 - How to talk to parents and clients in a way that matches their thinking styles and beliefs
 - Supporting emotional wellbeing
 - Interim coping strategies that will support clients as they progress through their HANDLE program

Session 7

- When to consult and refer
- Activity Analysis (certification)
 - Angels in the Snow
 - Ball Back Roll

Session 8

- Activity Analysis (certification)
 - Peacemaker Massage

- Joint Tapping

Session 9

- Review and deepening of key topics taught previously
- Key learnings and insights
- Brief overview of the opportunity to work with Oxford Specialist Tutors' clients

Certification

Certification for Screeners and Interns

The course fee includes all the steps required to receive the certification for this course.

You will not have to find your own clients to complete the course and get certified.

There will be two parts to the certification process:

1. Activity Analysis
2. Exam

Activity Analysis

The Activity Analysis for each of the four new Activities taught in the course will be included in the course sessions. The Activity Analysis will be competency-based. Once you have completed the Activity Analysis to the satisfaction of Dror Schneider, you will be certified by The HANDLE Institute® to use the four new activities in your practice.

Exam

The exam will cover the content of the course.

Certification for Practitioners

Practitioners would need to participate in the exam and not in the Activity Analysis in order to be certified.

Dates

We'll schedule the course as soon as we have enough interested participants. We will run a poll to find the dates that work best for the most people who are interested in attending. Likely we will hold the class once a week.

Fees

US \$299 with certification

US \$199 without certification

We prefer payment at the time of registration, but we can arrange for payments over time if you need to in order to fit your budget.

Working with Oxford Specialist Tutors

Oxford Specialist Tutors has a growing business providing specialist tutoring and HANDLE services to clients.

Most of our clients are in the UK and Ireland, and some are in the USA.

We provide all of our services online via Zoom.

We currently have more demand for HANDLE services than we can fulfill, and our client demand continues to grow.

It turns out that most of our clients identify as having dyspraxia. This is partly by design, as Margo has particular interest and expertise in dyspraxia, and is also the result of what we have found to work most effectively when marketing our services.

Thus we have a need for more HANDLE providers who are qualified to work with clients who identify as having dyspraxia and are interested in working with us.

When we work with providers, we do all the preliminary footwork of finding and onboarding clients. We do the scheduling, provide a Google account for you, and take care of the billing. So we take care of the business and you can focus on what you love - client delivery.

In our process for onboarding a new client, we gather all their intake information before assigning them to a provider. Margo reviews their intake information to determine what kind of services they need. Once she has done that, she determines the best-matched HANDLE provider for the client, and asks the provider if they would like to take the client.

Thus, you'll only be offered clients who match your current skill-level, certification level and interests.

Our goal is that for many of our clients who identify as having dyspraxia, this course will provide you with the skills and certification you need to work with appropriate clients without supervision.

Your relationship with Oxford Specialist Tutors would be working as an independent contractor, so you can choose how many of our clients you would like to take on each month.

Once you have successfully completed the course, we would be happy to explore the possibility of your working with Oxford Specialist Tutors.