# **Guidance for Using Lexia Reading Skills Solutions with SEND Pupils**



### For pupils with learning difficulties

Lexia Learning was originally founded to provide reading intervention for pupils with language-based learning difficulties, including dyslexia. Many pupils with specific or multiple learning difficulties will be able to access and use Lexia independently with no requirement for additional support. Where a learning difficulty is more severe, pupils can use Lexia in their classrooms with the support of qualified Special Educational Needs (SEN) teachers.

Lexia can be used to develop early literacy skills such as letter naming, rhyming, and listening comprehension. Later levels continue to develop essential reading skills and can be used if the pupil's language and literacy levels are consistent with the next stage of the curriculum. Schools serving pupils on the autism spectrum and others who are non-verbal have found Lexia to be an engaging and important aspect of their language development.

## For pupils with physical disabilities

Lexia can be used in conjunction with technology-based adaptive add-ons and/or one-to-one assistance. Some pupils with physical disabilities use adaptive equipment (e.g. puff sticks, head pointers, mouth operated mouse controls, etc.) that allow access to the user controls and keyboard. These types of physical adaptations make Lexia reading programs a good choice for pupils with cerebral palsy, paralysis, and other physical limitations. As always, these devices require setup and monitoring from an Assistive Technology Specialist.

A hearing-impaired pupil might be a good candidate for using Lexia if their amplification device allows the pupil to hear spoken language and isolate sounds. Students who are deaf and cannot hear spoken language are not good candidates for Lexia.

Similarly, some visually impaired pupils might benefit from using Lexia if the pupil can read print on a computer screen or tablet. Pupils who are blind and unable to read print will not be able to access the reading programs, even with assistive technology.

### Program usage

Regardless of the presenting impairment, teachers may adjust the program session time based on the pupil's ability to sustain mental and physical attention to the task.

### Offline & teacher support

It is worth noting that although Lexia is designed to enable independent self-paced personalised learning, teachers may need to utilise Lexia's accompanying offline printable resources more frequently to ensure progress with SEN pupils.

### Try it!

If a school is unsure of Lexia's suitability, we recommend you try Lexia with the pupil(s) in question; the results might be surprising! For further assistance, please contact LexiaUK.

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