

PRESSEMITTEILUNG

Weakness, disorder, disability? How can inclusion and support for dyslexia and dyscalculia be better achieved in schools?

Cologne 11.12.2023: On 22 February 2024, the ‘Kölner Arbeitskreis LRS & Dyskalkulie e.V.’ will be organising a whole day of expert talks at didacta to provide information on the topics of dyslexia and dyscalculia. The programme on the "Inclusion Area" is aimed at interested parties and teachers in order to make inclusion for children and young people affected by dyslexia and dyscalculia more possible and to provide meaningful support.

Each class has around 5-7 children with dyslexia and around 1-2 children with dyscalculia. Without encouragement and support, affected pupils often fall into a vicious circle of frustration, school anxiety and fear of failure. The consequences can be massive: a learning disorder often goes hand in hand with a lack of self-esteem and even psychological problems. Affected children often do not achieve a school-leaving certificate that matches their potential.

What needs to be done to ensure that these children and young people receive better support at school and in the classroom?

There is still a lot wrong with the way schools deal with dyslexia or dyscalculia. Teachers feel ill-prepared for the problem. School administrators do not know the legal requirements or apply them only partially and reluctantly. Parents of affected pupils are often left alone and complain about a jungle of regulatory interpretations for the enforcement of their children's rights. According to the association's experience, 80 - 85 % of schools in NRW act against the legal requirements.

The “Kölner Arbeitskreis LRS & Dyskalkulie e.V.” has been campaigning for affected parents and children for years and would like to use this day at didacta to help provide more knowledge about LRS and dyscalculia and the associated support requirements and options. In addition to factual knowledge, it will also address very practical questions: When do we actually start talking about Dyslexia and what is the difference between compensation for disadvantages and grade protection? How does dyslexia affect the acquisition of a foreign language and what regulations actually apply in the various subjects?

The following events will take place on February 22, 2024, between 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM at Didacta in Hall 8 on the inclusion area:

What do children need for a good start in school? (10:00 AM - 10:45 AM)

Torsten Landwehr, Head of the Calculation Therapy Centre Cologne and Norma Cleve, learning therapist, will be talking to presenter Malin Büttner about tips for supporting children before they start school and in their first year.

Dyscalculia - Barrier to success for children and adults (1:00 PM - 1:45 PM)

Massive maths problems destroy school careers and careers more than any other school subject. Torsten Landwehr, Head of the Calculation Therapy Centre Cologne, specialises in coaching young people and adults with high aptitude and dyscalculia. In this talk, he provides information about the causes and effects of dyscalculia and presents successful support measures.

Dyslexia and foreign languages (2:00 PM - 2:45 PM)

In many schools, LRS is primarily seen as a problem in learning the mother tongue. However, the acquisition of a foreign language poses similar challenges for those affected, and depending on the language, these are even greater than in German. Bert Kerstin, teacher trainer and author, talks to Malin Büttner about how English teachers can better support pupils with dyslexia.

How schools (should) deal with dyslexia (3:00 PM - 3:45 PM)

What needs to happen so that children and young people with dyslexia are better supported at school and in the classroom? In this lecture and interview, Bert Kerstin, teacher trainer, book author and presenter Malin Büttner provide guidance on what schools must, can and should implement.

Dyslexia and dyscalculia - the daily struggle at home (4:00 - 4:45 PM)

For many families, dealing with SLD or Dyscalculia is a long ordeal. Frustrated children, fear of failure, school-related anxiety, diminished self-esteem, conflicts with teachers, and navigating bureaucratic hurdles become a routine. In a discussion, affected parents will share what helped them and where they wish for more support.

Press contact and further information:

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About the "Kölner Arbeitskreis LRS & Dyskalkulie e.V.": Founded in May 2015, the working group supports affected parents with information so that children receive the best possible support, especially at school. The working group also cooperates with schools and teachers who want to further optimise their approach to dyslexia and dyscalculia. The working group organises information evenings for parents, teachers and therapists at regular intervals. Parents can also exchange ideas at regulars' table evenings. The "Kölner Arbeitskreis LRS & Dyskalkulie e.V." works on a voluntary basis. It is not commercially orientated in any way and is not linked to any therapy facilities.