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GETTING SUPPORT FOR DYSLEXIA - THIS APPLIES TO PEOPLE STUDYING.

Go to the Disability Support Center in the educational institute you are registered in and do what they say! The following is what I did and might help you understand the whole process or explain what you want if Disability Support are not very helpful.

This sheet is about applying for Disability Support for being Dyslexic. This is a [Government](#) 'grant', which is administered by your [local council](#) (the [borough](#) you live in). The grant is to support dyslexic people with their education. The idea is that dyslexic people need some assistance to be at the same 'ground level' as non-dyslexics, just as someone who can't walk might get a wheelchair.

Step one - Register with the Disability Support at your educational Institute and get the [Government Form](#) to apply for Disability Support.

- A. Go to the Disability Services Department of the educational institute you are registers in. Explain you want to find out about support the institution offers and that you want to apply for Disability Support.
- B. They will ask you for the [report on your dyslexia](#). This is the [report](#) on the tests you have had to find out you are dyslexic; it would have been done by a specialist in dyslexia. If you do not have a [report](#) like this, ask to be [tested for dyslexia](#). The Disability Support office should be able to point you in the direction of getting the test.
- C. Once your have registered with Disability Support ask them to help you get the correct [Form](#) and help you fill it out.

Step two – Approaching the your Local Council

NB: from now on do not do anything without getting it in writing

- *Get receipts for any thing you bring into the [Council](#) so you have proof of the date you brought it in.*
 - *Give them photocopies unless they need an original.*
 - *If they need the original of anything always make two photocopies of it one for yourself and one you take with you for the [Council](#) then see if they can look at the original but keep the photocopy.*
 - *Do not take any action until you have it in writing i.e. if someone tells you what to do next ask for a copy of the letter they will send you about it.*
- D. The completed [Form](#) will be sent to the [Civic Center](#) of the council where you live. You will need to show you have lived in that council area for 3 or 5 years. You may need to think about using your parent's address and explaining you are living in digs to carry out your study. You will also have to show evidence you are registered for study, you are dyslexic (the [dyslexic report](#) again) and you have lived in that council area for the required length of time.
 - E. The [Council](#) will process your information it may take a number of weeks (I kept going in to check what point my application was at). Finally, they will send you a letter saying you need to go to an [Assessment Center](#). This is not to assess if you are dyslexic but to assess **what support or kinds of help you need** (as different people with dyslexia have different needs).
 - F. They should send you the address of an [Assessment Center](#) but you can go to any registered [Assessment Centre](#), some are busier than others. I wanted to get through the process quickly because I really need the help!! The first Center I called had a four-week wait for an appointment. I called all the Centres in the South East and found one with an appointment the following week. (Don't forget to cancel appointments you make if you find a better date – it's polite)

- G. At your appointment you will need to take your report and take your letter from the council telling you to go to an **Assessment Centre** (this is how the Centre gets paid they may ask for it – ask them if they can take a photo copy).
- Explain what sort of problems you have.
 - I also explained what I thought would help and asked if they had anything like that. **NB** do some research before you go: ask other people what they have for help, feel free to contact me www.dancingstrong.com , go on the inter-net and check out things for Dyslexic people and Blind people.
 - Think of this as a partnership the person at the **Centre** knows about things that help Dyslexic people but you know what you are like and what sounds like help to you. You should be able to try things out at the **Center** to see how they work.
- H. The **Assessment Centre** will send a report recommending what you need for support. The report will include at least two quotes for how much the equipment you need costs. They should send a copy to you too BUT you cannot do anything until your **Local Council** have approved the recommendations and chosen which quote they want to go with. (Some of the support will be things like computer programmes others will be peoples time like someone to coach you in different note taking methods, read to you etc...)

Step Three – Acquiring the Support and Help you need.

- I. You will receive a letter from the **Council** recommending what help and support you need and **Supplier** to go to, to get the equipment (i.e. one of the two quotes in the report). You can then call the **Supplier** and order your equipment. There will be a code on the letter the **Council** have sent you this will be used to prove to the supplier the **Council** will be paying for the equipment.
- J. **NB** you can up-grade the equipment privately. I added Final-cut Pro to my order and paid for it directly. All the programmes will be pre-installed. So my laptop came with the recommended programmes installed and Final-cut Pro installed too.
- K. When your order is ready it will be delivered. The **person** who delivers it should set everything up and check it works. Part of the help and support will include a few lessons in how to use the equipment.

Remember that this is not a gift; you have a right to the help and support. Don't be afraid to hassle the **Council** and politely let people know what you want and need. Your way of being grateful is to do some really great study, create something wonderful and add positively to the community of artists.