Dysgraphia

Abi Harrison-Nye

Symptoms

- Handwriting is often illegible and poorly spaced.
- Holding a pen causes physical pain or cramping.
- Written work is noticeably weaker than their strong verbal skills.

Age & Gender

- It is usually identified in early childhood when learning to write.
- It affects all genders but is historically diagnosed more in males.

Misconceptions

- It is a neurological disconnect, not just 'messy handwriting' or laziness.
- It does not mean a person has low intelligence.
- They can have excellent physical coordination for everything else.

Diagnosis

- Diagnosed by an Educational Psychologist or Occupational Therapist.
- Assessments test fine motor skills and compare verbal ability to written output.

Support options

- There is no medication for dysgraphia.
- Occupational therapy improves hand strength and pencil grip.
- Peer support helps individuals share practical technology workarounds.

Support

- Allow the use of typing or speech-to-text software.
- Provide extra time for written tasks or accept verbal submissions.
- Provide pre-printed notes so they do not have to copy notes down.

This information isn't a diagnostic tool. If you recognise these symptoms in yourself or others, please contact a doctor.

AbiHarrisonNye.dev