

## The positive side of dyslexia

Many of the world's most creative people are dyslexic. They do not achieve in spite of their dyslexia. They achieve because of it. There are some very creative and high achieving kiwis who are, or were dyslexic:

John Britten (Britten Motorcycle), Richard Taylor (Weta Workshops), Peter Leitch (the mad butcher) and Michael Van de Elsen (celebrity chef).

**“We are the visionaries, inventors, and artists. We think differently, see the world differently, and solve problems differently. It is from this difference that the dyslexic brain derives its brilliance.”** (Quote from a dyslexic person).

No two dyslexic people are the same. Each person will have their own individual challenges and each will have their own combination of advantages. In some cases, a feature which is a challenge in some situations is an advantage in others.

Research from around the world reveals that dyslexic people often demonstrate the following talents and skills:

- Strong spatial, visual and 3-D skills.
- Innovative, creative, out of the box type thinking. Often, they are able to jump straight to the solution.
- Left field, alternative thinkers, often logical problem solvers.
- Don't get bogged down with details, able to see the big picture
- Often very empathetic, with a high level of emotional intelligence.
- Often great verbal communicators.
- Known to be great at collaboration and co-operative activities. Therefore, great team members.
- Many end up as successful entrepreneurs.
- Often able to see patterns, connections and similarities that others cannot see.

There are many examples of people who did not achieve well in the school system, including some very famous people - who went on to do very well in the world of work

Some examples:

### Winston Churchill

“I was, on the whole, considerably discouraged by my school days. It was not pleasant to feel oneself so completely outclassed and left behind at the beginning of the race.”

Winston Churchill went on to be one of the great authors and politicians of the 20th century.

### Steven Spielberg, award-winning director

“It is more common than you can imagine. You are not alone. And while you will have this the rest of your life, you can dart between the raindrops to get where you want to go and it will not hold you back.”