

## Challenge

***Despite her abilities, her mild dyslexia and possible dyspraxia made reading and spelling hard for her.***

Julie is a 9-year-old student who attends an independent girls' school. She enjoys school very much and has a stable home life. Although Julie had always been an enthusiastic listener to stories and books read out loud, she did not particularly enjoy the process of reading and her parents found it difficult to encourage her to read a book for pleasure.

At the age of 8 years 8 months Julie was assessed by an educational psychologist and identified as having robust verbal and non-verbal abilities with a very high General Ability IQ and exceptional linguistic capacity. Despite her abilities, her mild dyslexia and possible dyspraxia made reading and spelling hard for her.

## Story

***Her reading ability did not match her verbal understanding and general linguistic ability. It was felt that this might be holding her back and causing her frustration.***

Julie was identified to participate in the ReadingWise programme because her reading ability did not match her verbal understanding and general linguistic ability. It was felt that this might be holding her back and causing her frustration. Her form teacher identified ReadingWise as a tool to help her with decoding. Prior to starting ReadingWise Julie had been having extra phonics and English lessons at school, both one-to-one and in small groups.

Julie used the ReadingWise programme over a period of 14 weeks, from January to May 2017. She logged on at home with her mother supervising her, and they found ReadingWise to be easy to implement at home. They started with 20 minute sessions, as recommended by ReadingWise, but as Julie was working on her own at home and not within a group at school, they reduced the sessions to ten or fifteen minutes. They aimed to do a daily session, with a break over the school holidays.

Julie enjoyed some of the ReadingWise activities such as making words from plasticine and she was hugely motivated by a chapter featuring words from a Harry Potter book. She also enjoyed the rewards the programme has in place such as the animated gifs that appear between activities. However, it was hard work completing the activities on her own, working from home. Julie's mother commented that she could imagine having peer support and working amongst a group could help with motivation.

## Impact

***Her reading age at the start was 8 years 10 months and when retested at the end, after 3 months using the ReadingWise programme, her reading age had increased to 12 years.***

Julie was assessed before and after completing her ReadingWise lesson plan using a Single Word Reading Test. Her reading age at the start was 8 years 10 months and when retested at the end, after 3 months using the ReadingWise programme, her reading age had increased to 12 years. Julie was extremely pleased with this result, and her confidence increased, almost visibly. As a result, Julie's mother has noticed that Julie is much more likely to pick up a book, comic or magazine at home, and read for pleasure on her own.

Buy ReadingWise for your child here: <https://readingwise.com/products/forparents>