* Many people across the world have difficulties with reading and writing, regardless of the languages they speak.
* Literacy difficulties are sometimes known as ‘dyslexia’. Within the UK, several definitions for dyslexia are in use which has meant there are some problems with when it comes to the definition on dyslexia and studies have found there appears to be no clear-cut basis for differential diagnosis of dyslexia versus poor reader.
* There are some difficulties that may accompany literacy difficulties such as difficulties with motor coordination, working memory or organisation (known as co-morbid difficulties), but these do not constitute diagnostic criteria.
* It is important to understand that access to intervention and support is the most important action for a child or young person with literacy difficulties.
* This support and intervention is not based upon a diagnosis, but on your child/ young person’s needs based on assessment. The advantage of this approach is that it ensures that all children with literacy difficulties are identified and provided with interventions geared to their needs.
* Every educational setting needs to include practice that promotes literacy skills for all within a whole-school policy and philosophy, including for those with literacy difficulties. All children and young people should be able to access appropriate setting-based assessment, intervention and support, from the time their difficulties become apparent.
* The first response for educational settings occurs when staff notice individual differences and adjust their teaching. Differentiated strategies are used to support a child or young person with their learning (this is known as high quality teaching).
* Personalised specialist support should be made available to those children and young people who require a more intensive approach tailored to their specific difficulties.

This could be by an educational psychologist or specialist teacher for assessments to examine more closely the child’s individual strengths and difficulties.