

Dyslexia and Co-occurring Specific Learning Difficulties

Pamela Deponio, University of Edinburgh

Let's Read! Reading and Print Disabilities
in Young People

Tallinn, Estonia.

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Key message

We are aware that children with the specific learning difficulty of dyslexia are 'print impaired'. However, the term 'specific learning difficulty' is an umbrella term that includes other specific difficulties. These difficulties overlap or are said to 'co-occur'. Therefore we need to be aware that children with these other specific difficulties may also be 'print impaired'.





Dyslexia

Dyspraxia

**Specific
Learning
Difficulties**

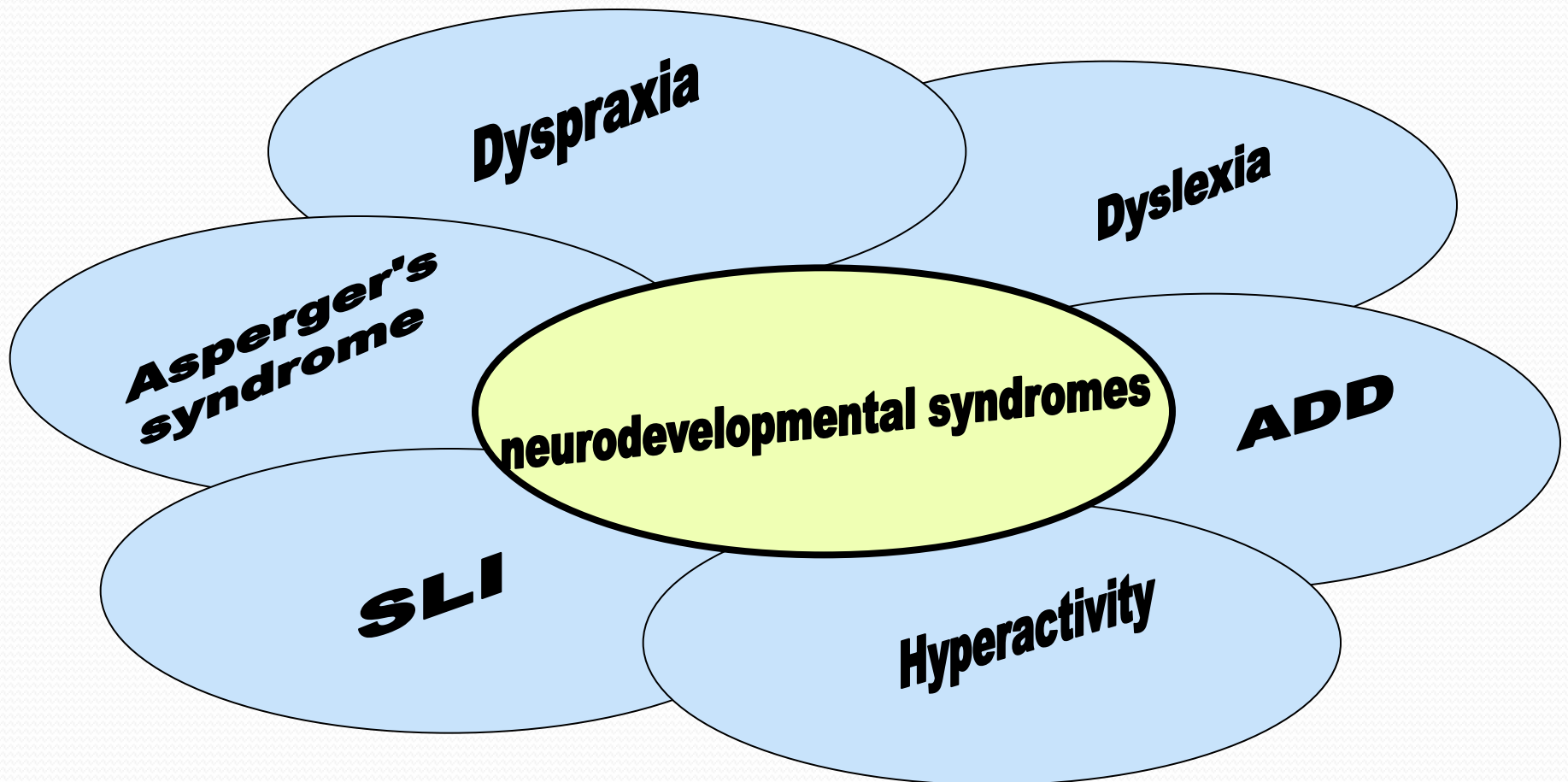
**Attention Deficit
Hyperactivity
Disorder (ADHD)**

**Specific Language
Impairment (SLI)**

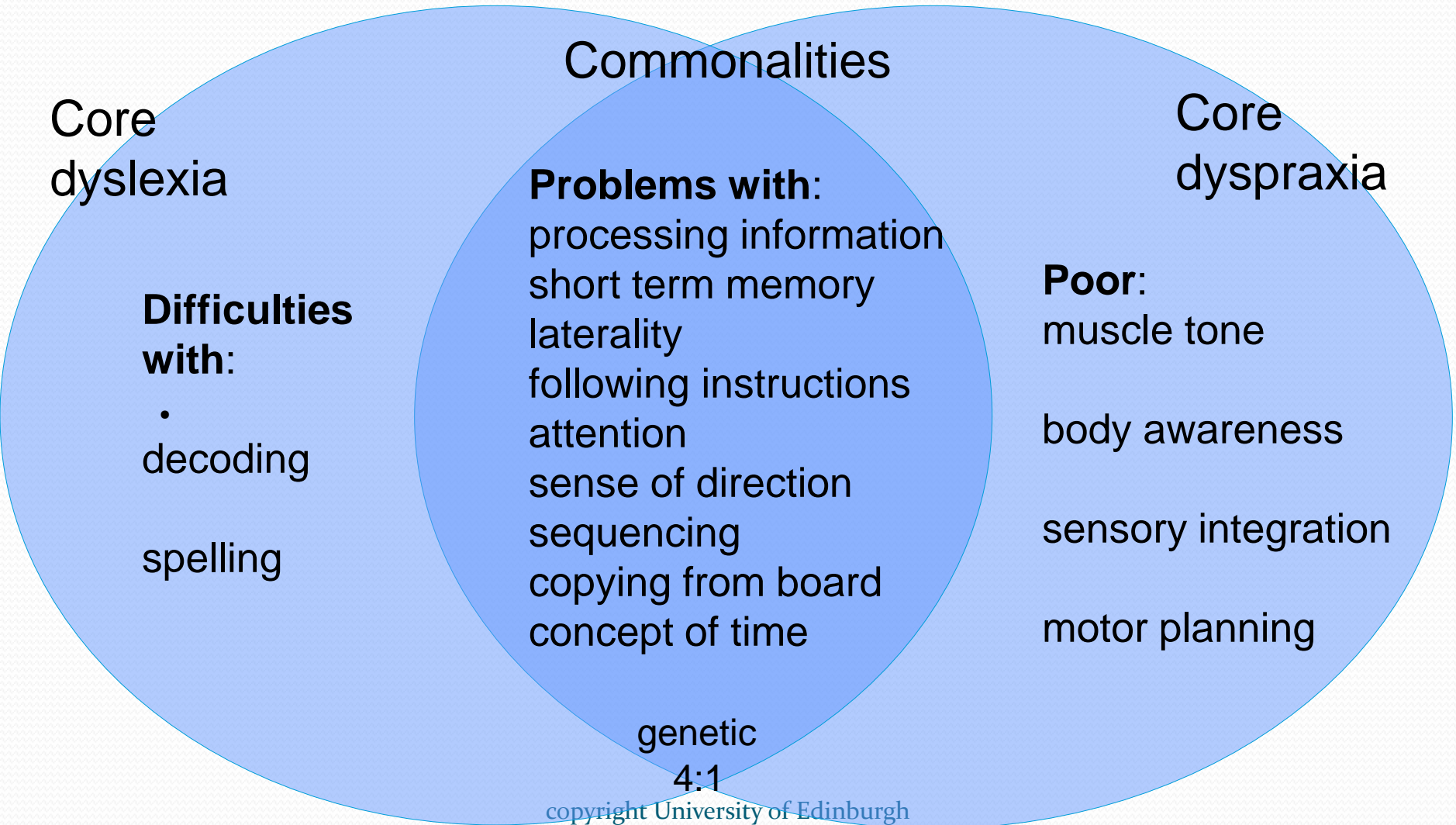
Specific Difficulty	Key Indicator
Dyslexia 	Literacy skills
Dyspraxia 	Movement & planning
ADHD 	Attention & hyperactivity
SLI 	Expressive & receptive language (comprehension)

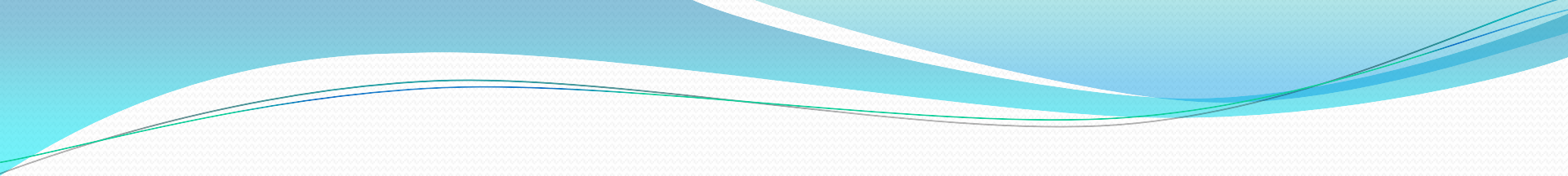
Specific Neurodevelopmental Syndromes

(Keen 2001)



Dyslexia / Dyspraxia

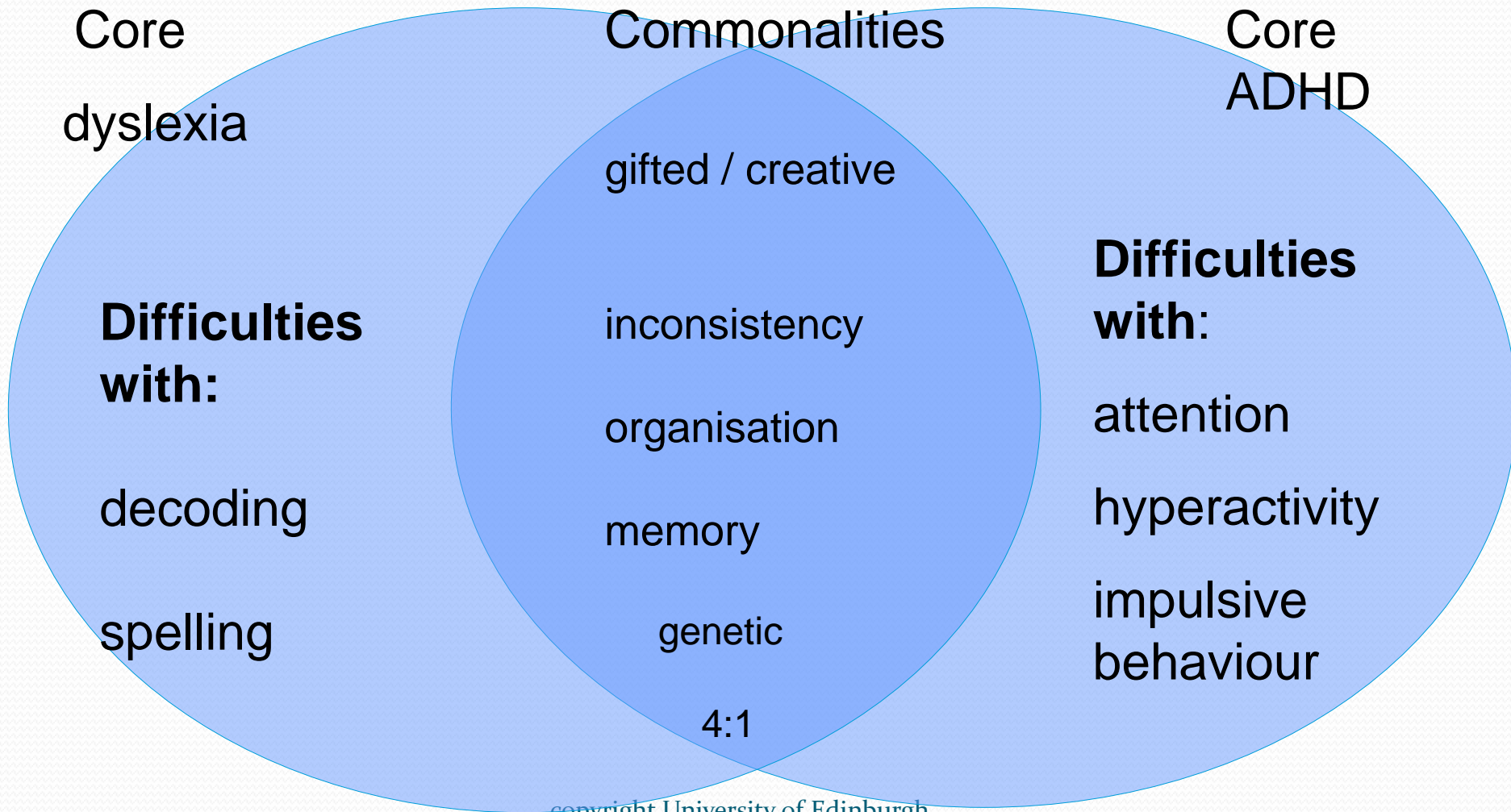




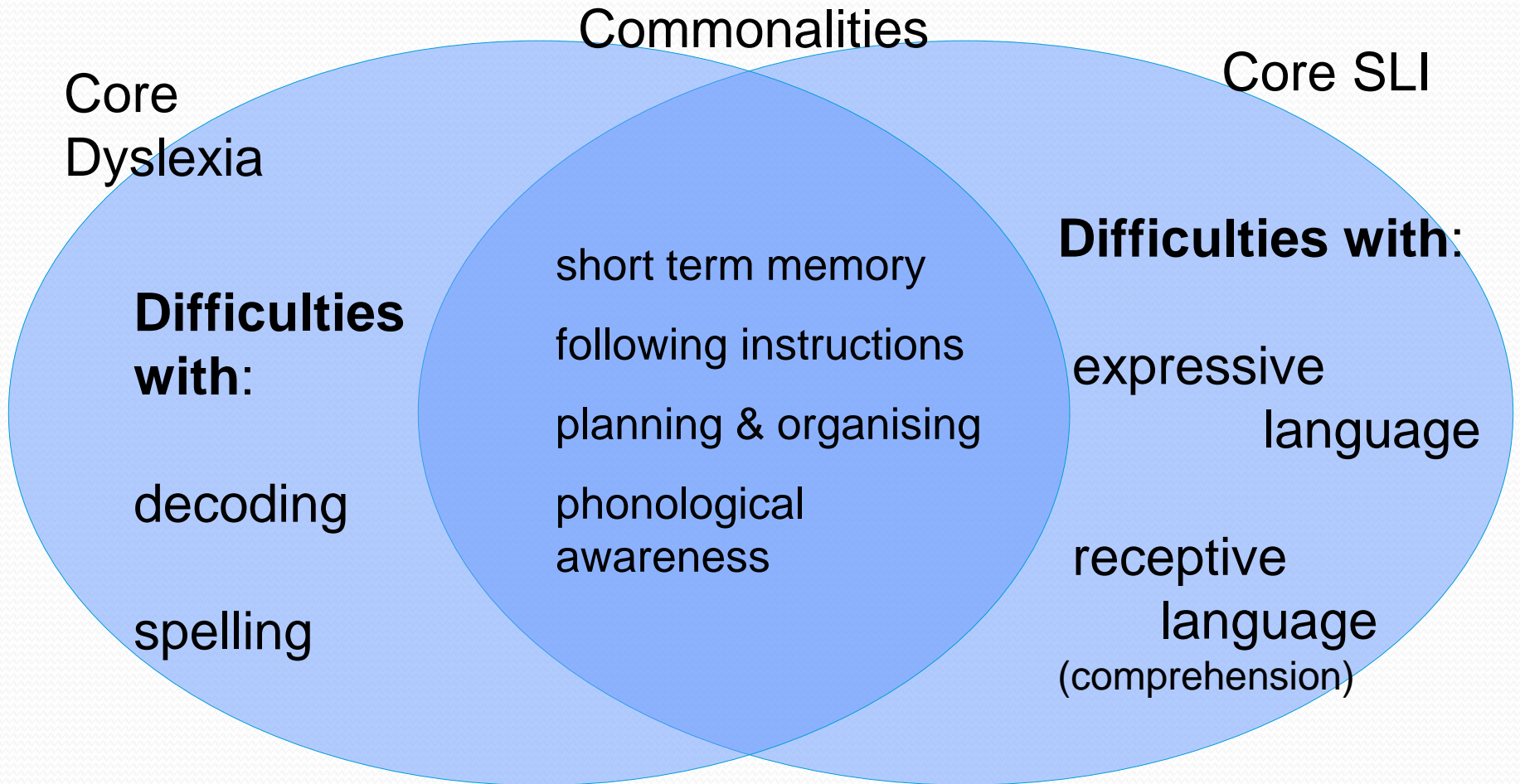
‘There may be a continuum of severity in terms of the number of diagnosis, with children identified with only one developmental disorder displaying better overall functioning than children diagnosed with two or more developmental disorders’

(Kaplan et al 2006)

Dyslexia /ADHD



Dyslexia / SLI



Commonalities

Strengths & abilities

Difficulty with:





- Short term /working memory
- Inconsistency in performance
- Following instructions
- Planning, organising & sequencing
- Concept of time

Atypical brain development (Kaplan et al 2001)

decoding
sensory integration
planning & sequencing
spelling
attention
hyperactivity
organisation
impulse control
muscle tone
memory
comprehension
motor planning
phonological awareness
concept of time
language
inconsistency

Each child has his/her own individual profile

Terminology

Literacy dominant	Movement dominant	Language dominant	Attention / Impulse control dominant
			
Dyslexia	Dyspraxia	SLI	ADHD

Issues of incomplete assessment

Educational psychologist	Dyslexia
PE teacher	Dyspraxia
Speech and Language therapist	SLI
Psychiatrist	ADHD

Key message

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Situation in Scotland

Equality Act:

The Equality Act 2010 is the law which bans unfair treatment and helps achieve equal opportunities in the workplace and in wider society.

All schools in England, Wales and Scotland, irrespective of how they are funded or managed, have obligations under the Equality Act 2010.

Accessibility Strategy

Education (Disability Strategies and Pupils' Educational Records) (Scotland) Act 2002

Books for All Project in Scotland



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Visual
Impairment

Dyslexia

Physical
Disability

General
Learning
Difficulty

Key messages

Co-occurrence

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Books for All

A wider range of children may be considered as 'print disabled'.

Dyslexia / Dyspraxia references

- Dewey et al (2000) - children with reading disability or dyslexia have a high rate of motor difficulties
- Kaplan et al (1998) - reading disorder (dyslexia) & motor difficulties, comorbidity > 55%
- Wolff et al (1990) - 50% of dyslexics displayed bilateral integration problems
- Fawcett & Nicolson (1995) - cerebellum impairment

Dyslexia / ADHD references

- Wilcutt et al (2007) 40% individuals who met criteria for RD or ADHD also met criteria for the other
- Banaschewski et al (2007) ADHD highly morbid condition
- Adams & Snowling (2001) - co-occurrence over 50%
- Willcutt & Pennington, (2000) ... RD and ADHD co-occur significantly more frequently than would be expected based on chance...
- Hynd (2002) - 50% children with dyslexia will also have ADHD.

Dyslexia / SLI Co-occurrence references

- McArthur (2000) overlap between dyslexia & SLI
- Tallal et al (1997): developmental continuum between early language disorders & phonologically based reading disorders
- Snowling (2001) - children with significant reading impairments at 8 showed a pattern of speech & language delay



BOOKS *for* ALL

<http://www.books4all.org.uk>