

This was the story that I told my son Cameron to help explain about what dyslexia means and why he has been struggling at school. I wanted to make sure that he understood that it was about a difference in how he learns, remembers information and organises himself. I wanted him to know that he would be able to learn lots of things at school but that we needed to find different ways to help him learn and keep him interested and that there were some positive things about him and having Dyslexia, even though it means he is going to have to work harder at his education than others.

## **Seahorse in a starfish world**

Once upon a time, there was a young seahorse. He was a lovely friendly and clever seahorse, who was very good at being a seahorse, but the problem was that he was born in a world where most people were starfishes. His mother was a seahorse but the rest of the family were starfish and all of his friends were starfish. At first this was fine, seahorses and starfish being sea creatures and liking the same sorts of things and life went along happily.

Then the young seahorse started in a starfish school, this was great because lots of his starfish friends were going and his starfish big sister was there and he felt very grown up. The starfish teacher was lovely and there was lots of games and playing which seahorse loved.

Then as time went on, the seahorse noticed that the starfish teachers started talking about things that didn't seem to make much sense. There were things that the seahorse was being asked to do that the starfish children seemed to find easy but the seahorse couldn't make much sense of. There was lots of things involving these strange symbols and codes that his friends seemed to get along with but the seahorse decided just to ignore, after all school had lots of other fun things to do. The starfish teacher thought that maybe because the seahorse was young, he would catch up when he was ready to stop playing and start learning.

He didn't though, and he got more and more behind his friends, and his seahorse mummy, recognising some of the problems that she had had when

she was little, decided to find out what was going on. She found out that seahorses learn in very different ways from starfishes. She found that although her little seahorse was curious, bright and very creative, he just couldn't remember the things he was being taught. There were too many things going on at the same time and everything just got muddled in his head and made no sense.

His mummy also found out that there were different ways that seahorses like to learn that are that make much more sense to seahorses and that the starfish teachers and his family needed to find ways to make sure that the seahorse could use those ways at his school so that he could learn things like the starfish children. She also found out that there are seahorse teachers that are specially trained to give some extra help to seahorses.

This was important as the seahorse was starting to feel like he was a very bad starfish and his mummy wanted him to remember that what is really important is not to try to be a good starfish, but just to be the really great seahorse that he was and for the seahorse and all the people around him to help him to find ways be able to understand the starfish world he lives in.

The end (Of chapter 1 anyway)