

## Ideas for the classroom

- Avoid sharing books. One person's overlay can make it difficult for another child to read.
- Use a font size of 14 with Arial, Veranda, Comic Sans or Century Gothic. Double spacing is also helpful.
- Laminate coloured card to create a personalised whiteboard .
- Provide a monitor overlay for the computer and change the background of the Interactive Whiteboard.
- Check the whiteboard for glare.
- Writing on alternate lines will help children to read their work.
- Provide coloured paper for writing on.



## What difference does it make?

20% of the population are helped by reading through colour. 5% cannot manage without it.



**Overlays can be purchased from a range of suppliers e.g.:**

[www.hedyslexishop.co.uk](http://www.hedyslexishop.co.uk)

[www.crossboweducation.com](http://www.crossboweducation.com)

[www.ypo.co.uk](http://www.ypo.co.uk)

**For further information please contact:**

Learning Support Service

Tel: 01709 334087 or 01709 334077

E-mail:

[helen-lss.bacon@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:helen-lss.bacon@rotherham.gov.uk)

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## Coloured Overlays



## When to consider a coloured overlay

- Headaches
- Eye strain
- Fatigue
- Difficulty copying
- Slow reading speed
- Letters appear to move or become blurry
- Misreading of words
- Losing their place or missing words out
- Difficulty judging distances



### Be aware

- Coloured overlays are unlikely to help with letter reversals.
- Needing a coloured overlay does not automatically mean dyslexia.
- Overlays may allow children to read for longer and minimise visual distortion. They will still need support to develop their reading skills.

## Important Information

It is important that children have an up to date eye test if they are experiencing difficulties with seeing the text. This is because the symptoms can be similar to those caused by other physical eye symptoms e.g. short-sightedness.



## Coloured Overlay or Reading Ruler?

- Unless children have difficulties with tracking as well, then they should read more quickly with a coloured overlay.
- The peripheral glare when using a reading ruler may cause some children to still experience difficulties.
- A duo reading ruler (instead of a plain one) is better for those children that have difficulties with tracking and lose their place.

## Using an overlay

- Encourage the use of an overlay for four weeks.
- If it stops making a difference, then try a different colour.
- Check if they find a reading ruler more helpful.
- Provide a selection for other children to use during guided reading. Model using an overlay when sharing a class book.
- They can be easily scratched, so provide a cover when it is not in use.

## Colours available

