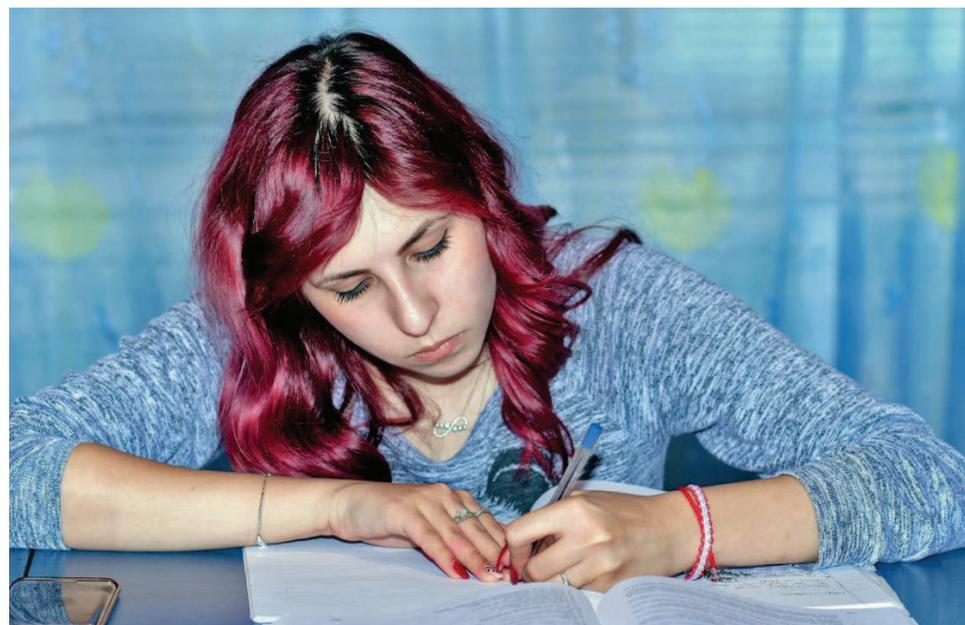


having medical tests to ensure there are not any underlying health issues, such as hearing or vision problems, that could be affecting the child's ability to learn.

However, if they are preschool, not responding to targeted instruction, or aren't receiving the necessary support, then you may wish to consider further assessment from a private dyslexia consultant or educational psychologist, information about which can be found on the websites listed below. Adults can also be assessed and find assistance: no matter what someone's age it is never too late to learn ways to improve reading and writing.

In addition to manual methods of education there are various technological tools which can be useful for both children and the more mature, including speech recognition software, word processors and electronic organisers. Governmental organisations and charities within the field will be



able to provide information on all of the available equipment.

Assessments

These usually involve a preliminary questionnaire, which will be filled out by a child's teachers and primary care givers in the case of a minor. This will

cover general questions regarding health and how well certain tasks are performed. During the assessment itself, tests normally include reading, writing, language and vocabulary skills, memory and organisational abilities, logic, and the pace of visual and auditory information processing. An

↑ **Dyslexics can go on to university and have a successful academic career**

→ **There are various technological items that can help**

in-depth analysis will allow the specialist to make recommendations for specific learning methods.

Finding support

Knowledge throughout Spain is improving and there are now various resources and support organisations available. For information in Spanish visit the website of the Spanish Dyslexia Federation (FEDIS) at: www.fedis.org, or DISFAM, one of the several charities run for, and by, people with dyslexia: www.disfam.org. Both of these belong to the European Dyslexia Asso-

You can sign an online petition asking for greater support for children with dyslexia and other learning difficulties to be factored into the next Spanish education bill at: www.change.org (find it by searching for: Más atención a la dyslexia y otras DEA). For information in English, visit the British Dyslexia Association at: www.bdadyslexia.org.uk. October is International Dyslexia Awareness Month, so if you have any reason to believe



ciation (EAD): www.eda-info.eu. For specific information for the Canary Islands visit the DISLECAN site at: www.dislecan.es.

that you, a child or any loved one may need some support in this area, now is a great time to make that first move. ■

PROMOTION

Strokes and neuropsychology

A stroke is a very common and sudden-onset pathology that affects cerebral blood circulation and as a result damaging an area of the brain, thus disrupting its functioning.

It's estimated that one in six people will suffer a stroke in their lifetime and it's surprising to note that young people are increasingly vulnerable to it. In fact, over the past 20 years an increase of 25 per cent has been observed in people in the 25 to 60 age group.

Continuous advances in medicine allow for a greater post-stroke survival, which usually leaves varied consequences, possibly affecting cognition, behaviour and the person's mobility. Neuropsychology aims to evaluate and rehabil-

itate cognitive functions, as it can help the patient to overcome these consequences. Recovery will depend on the severity of the injury and the time between the damage and the beginning of rehabilitation - early intervention is essential. Although we could all suffer a stroke at some point, in many cases, it can be prevented. The Antonio Alayón Neurological Centre has a specialised programme for the prevention of diseases and brain injuries, based on a complete neuropsychological evaluation, run by a team that specialises in neurology, psychology, neuropsychology, speech therapy and neurological physiotherapy.

English and Italian speaking patients are attended at the

centre with ease and translation services are offered for other languages. The needs of stroke-affected patients or other brain diseases and injuries are attended to, such as head injuries, ischemic stroke, cerebral haemorrhages, tumours, encephalitis, neurodegenerative diseases - Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy etc. Each of these brings a series of consequences on the physical, psychological (cognitive, behavioural and emotional) and functional levels, which in many cases have dramatic repercussions from the personal point of view. Numerous studies have shown that the interdisciplinary approach to these lesions and their consequences that is applied at this centre is



↑ **Dr. Antonio Alayón**

not only the most reasonable form of treatment, but also the most effective and efficient.

Neuropsychological evaluation service

The centre also offers a service to evaluate a patient's state

of conservation or deterioration of the different cognitive functions. Multiple neurological or psychiatric pathologies present symptoms of the alteration of a human being's superior capacities: memory, language, calculation, reasoning, attention and concentration, etc. In a neuropsychological evaluation, a thorough evaluation of the capacities preserved, impaired or lost in the neurological and psychiatric patient is carried out.

Antonio Alayón Neurological Centre

The centre is staffed by a multidisciplinary team and directed by Dr. Antonio Alayón, doctor of medicine and sur-

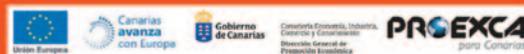
gery and a specialist in Neurology, which he studied at the Autonomous University of Barcelona and Wake Forest University (NC, USA), he is also the author of numerous publications in the neurological sphere. The centre is located in Santa Cruz de Tenerife and is a cosy facility where personal attention is provided, with a commitment to optimal recovery in the physical, mental and functional areas. They even offer an at-home service for some treatments. For any questions or further information, please contact them by calling: 922 285 978 or 629 958 880. Alternatively, email: centroneurologicoalayon@gmail.com, or see: www.antonioalayon.com. ■



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