

The Ultimate Guide To: Neurodiversity in the Digital Age

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How Ayoa Can Support Neurodivergent Learners:

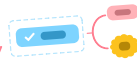
1

Struggle to Get Projects Started?

Don't let blank page syndrome hold you back! Whether it's kicking off your next essay or organising a major project, starting can be the hardest part.

Ayoa Solves This:

AI integration to prompt thinking
Idea bank to save ideas
Templates to get started



2

Feel Overwhelmed by Too Much Information?

Make sense of the chaos with Ayoa. After collecting your notes, research, and feedback, piecing them together can be overwhelming.

Ayoa Solves This:

Connect content and pictures in a **visual**, non-linear way
Auto focus to keep mind maps clear

AI

3

Need to Turn Thoughts Into Action?

Transform your mind map into a document or presentation effortlessly. Our powerful task management features help you stay organised and ensure you never miss a deadline.

Ayoa Solves This:

Task management with reminders
Document view for long text
Presentation tools

Neurodiversity in the Digital Age Conference

Take a look at key points from our discussion on neurodiversity in the digital age. Elevate: Education saw some great speakers share their experiences and insights in an AI-driven, ever-evolving educational ecosystem.

Gain invaluable insights from the experts who are reshaping how we support neurodivergent learners in an AI-enhanced educational environment.

Topics covered:

- Neurodiversity in Education
- How AI Empowers Neurodivergent Students
- My DSA and University Journey



Onyinye Udokporo:
Neurodiversity Consultant
(BBC, Microsoft)



Emily Gee:
Former DSA Student



Anne Sheppee
Neurodiversity Consultant



Fee Kempton:
EdTech Consultant

Onyinye Udokporo

Neurodiversity Consultant

(BBC, Microsoft)



About: Onyinye Udokporo was diagnosed with dyslexia at age 11, and following this, she became passionate about being a voice for neurodivergent people. Building a career as a neurodiversity consultant and content creator.

She focuses on working with schools, organisations, businesses, and corporations to discover how they can design neuro-inclusive safe spaces where neurodivergent people like her can thrive! Onyinye's roster of clients include:

- BBC
- Google
- Microsoft
- KPMG

Onyinye believes that it is important for her to create access to opportunity using education as a tool.



Neurodiversity in Education

Talk Summary:



“

You don't grow out of Neurodiversity when you get older

In her talk, Onyinye shares her educational journey, detailing struggles with reading, writing, and managing deadlines that led to significant anxiety. She explains the value of supportive environments, particularly praising her personal tutors and the disability department at King's College London for their pivotal role in her success.

Furthermore, Onyinye explains and discusses:

- Traditional teaching methods are criticised as outdated.
- Sensory overload and environmental distractions are significant issues for neurodiverse students.
- Neurodiverse students face challenges in organisation and time management.
- Personalised support, such as coaching from specialists, can greatly enhance focus and organisational skills.
- And much more

Key Takeaways:

For Educators:

- **Vary Teaching Methods:**
Employ multimedia and interactive content
- **Create a Structured Environment:**
Provide clear expectations to keep students engaged
- **Incorporate Assistive Technology:**
Use tools like timers and organisational apps to support students
- **Foster a Supportive Environment:**
Be kind and patient, recognising the intersection between mental health and neurodiversity
- **Provide Clear Instructions:**
Offer straightforward communication to aid understanding, particularly for students with autism

Recommendations for Supporting Neurodiverse Students:

- **Importance of Personalised Support:**

Personalised support, such as coaching from specialists, can significantly enhance neurodiverse students' focus, time management, and organisational skills.

- **Emotional and Mental Health Support:**

Addressing mental health is crucial as neurodiverse students are more likely to experience anxiety and low self-esteem.

- **Inclusive Policy Development:**

Institutions should refine policies and processes to better accommodate neurodiverse students.

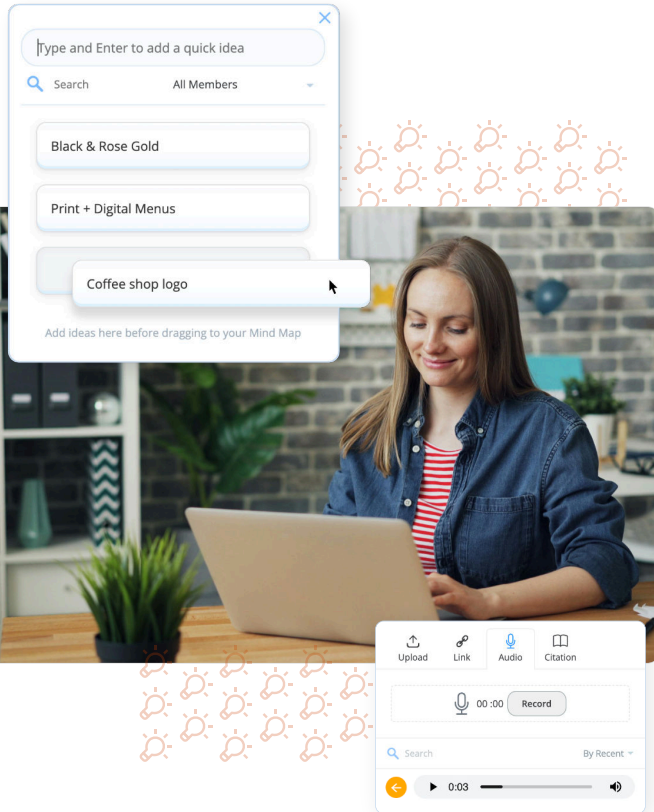
- **Promoting Self-advocacy:**

Encourage neurodiverse students to advocate for their needs and seek necessary accommodations.

- **Tailored Assessments and Deadlines:**

Flexible assessments and extended deadlines can help accommodate slower processing speeds and reduce anxiety.





- **Clear and Concise Communication:**

Providing clear and concise instructions is essential for neurodiverse students to understand expectations and requirements. This practice benefits all students but is particularly crucial for those with autism, who may struggle with indirect language or "unwritten rules."

- **Learning Through Variety:**

Implementing varied teaching methods, including visual, auditory, and kinaesthetic learning, can enhance engagement and comprehension.

- **Recognising and Valuing Strengths:**

Recognise and leverage the unique strengths of neurodiverse students to foster their academic and personal growth.

- **Creating a Safe Learning Environment:**

Foster a classroom environment where neurodiverse students feel safe to express their needs and challenges without fear of judgement.

- **Engaging Parents and Guardians:**

Engage with parents and guardians to create a collaborative support system for neurodiverse students. Regular communication and involvement can help reinforce support strategies at home and school.

Emily Gee

Former DSA Student
University of Winchester



About: Emily has been part of The Dyscalculia Network Advisory Board since 2022, as well as a board member for the Dyscalculia Advisory Board. Emily is the only dyscalculic and youngest board member. Beginning her journey back in 2018, she has shared her story on BBC Radio 5 Live, YouTube, Podcasts, Facebook, Twitter, The i Paper Newspaper and Webinars.

Emily studied Musical Theatre at the University of Winchester, where she applied for DSA, Graduating in 2020. Emily's goal is to change the education system to be more understanding and inclusive to dyslexia, dyspraxia and dyscalculia.



My DSA and University Journey

Talk Summary:



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You have to work 10x harder when you have dyslexia and dyspraxia

Emily was diagnosed with dyslexia and dyscalculia at a young age, followed later by dyspraxia, shaping her educational experiences significantly. Her initial schooling was marked by a lack of understanding and support, causing frustration and public embarrassment.

Furthermore, Emily explains and discusses her:

- Masking, as she hid her learning difficulties out of shame, leading to further challenges.
- Struggle navigating the Disabled Students' Allowance. With it being a lengthy and complex process, highlighting the need for better support systems.
- Lived experience within university, as she put in extra effort, working longer hours to succeed academically, especially in her dissertation.
- Passion for ensuring children receive the necessary support to prevent them from "falling through the cracks."
- Advice to students with learning difficulties to seek support and offers herself as a resource, highlighting the importance of advocacy.

Key Takeaways:

- **Complicated Application Process:**

The DSA application process was lengthy and complex, characterised by extensive back-and-forth communication and a lack of accessibility for someone with dyslexia.

- **Retesting Requirement:**

Despite having previous diagnoses and a history of receiving educational support, Emily was required to undergo retesting, which she found frustrating and traumatising.

- **Technology and Tools:**

Emily was provided with a laptop through DSA, but found it to be subpar and not well-suited to her needs. She rarely used it for academic work.





- **Masking and Social Life:**

Emily often masked her learning difficulties to avoid missing out on social activities and to blend in with her peers, which added to her stress and academic pressure.

- **Extra Effort and Workload:**

Due to her learning difficulties, Emily had to put in significantly more effort, often working late into the night to keep up with coursework and stay ahead of her peers.

- **Lack of Awareness and Understanding:**

Emily felt that there was a general lack of understanding about her conditions among university staff and peers, which sometimes made her feel isolated.

- **Advice and Advocacy:**

Emily emphasises the importance of starting the DSA application process early, seeking persistent support, and ensuring that students have an advocate to help them navigate the system. She offers her own experience as a resource for others facing similar challenges.

Anne Sheppee & Fee Kempton

Neurodiversity Consultant & EdTech
Consultant



in



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About: Anne has worked in education for over 25 years as a SENDCo, LEA advisor and now as a Neurodiversity Consultant and Dyslexia Specialist. She currently works with several schools in South-East London providing both staff training, parent talks and dyslexia assessments; as well as carrying out private assessments in her own home. Anne is particularly passionate about training educators in new and innovative ways to support dyslexic students in the classroom.

Fee is a highly experienced EdTech consultant with a proven track record of developing and implementing successful EdTech strategies for the education sector. Passionate about bridging the gap between technology organisations and the education sector, and committed to using agile methods to innovate within the curriculum.

Neurodiversity in Education

Talk Summary:



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Artificial intelligence is here to stay, and it's already changing the way we work and learn.

Understanding neurodiversity involves recognising that each student has a unique brain wiring, which can result in diverse ways of thinking and learning. This concept includes conditions such as ADHD, autism, and dyslexia. The focus is on tailoring learning to meet individual needs and making reasonable adjustments, while also celebrating strengths like creativity and addressing challenges through appropriate support.

Tech tools play a crucial role in empowering neurodivergent students, with assistive technologies such as, voice-to-text software and learning management systems providing flexible, personalised learning opportunities. These platforms enable students to:

- Engage with materials at their own pace
- Reduce cognitive load through flipped classrooms
- Utilise various media to support different learning styles.

However, challenges remain, including uneven support across schools, persistent social stigma, unsuitable standardised testing, insufficient teacher training, and limited access to high-quality resources due to financial constraints.

Key Takeaways:

Why and How AI Supports and Empowers Neurodivergent Students:

- **Personalised Learning:**

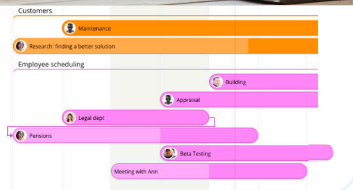
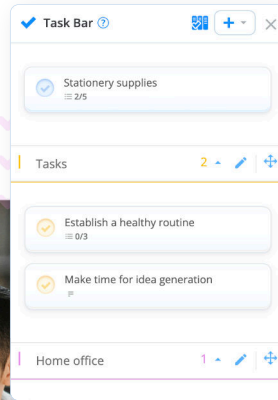
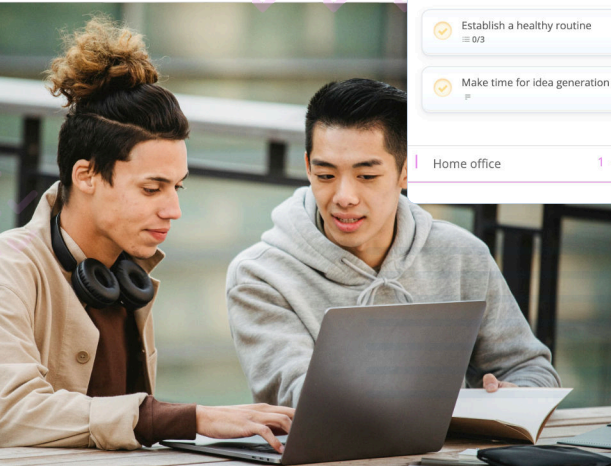
AI can adapt to individual students' learning paces, styles, and strengths, offering a more customised learning experience.

- **Enhanced Accessibility:**

AI tools like text-to-speech software and language translation can break down barriers to learning, making content more accessible to all students.

- **Engaging Content:**

AI can be used to create interactive learning experiences, simulations, and games, making learning more engaging and enjoyable for students.



- **Flexible Demonstration of Learning:**

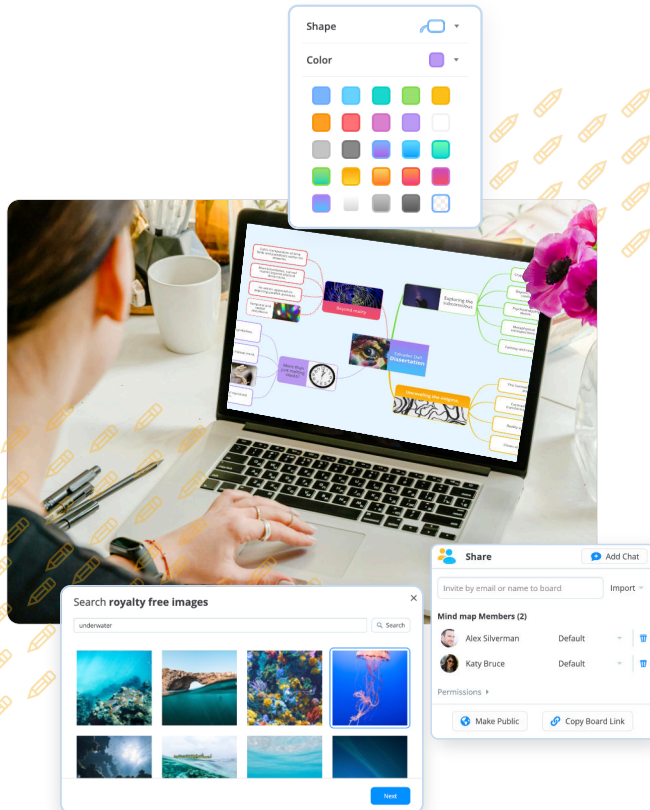
All open submission allows students the flexibility to demonstrate their learning in various ways (e.g., drama, storyboards, posters), catering to their strengths and preferences.

- **Supporting Diverse Needs:**

Tech tools allow for learning to be paced. Platforms like Google Classroom enable content to be revisited at any time, catering to individual pacing needs.

- **Reducing Cognitive Load:**

The flipped classroom model enables students to engage with learning materials before face-to-face sessions, reducing cognitive load.



- **Multiple Means of Engagement:**

Tech enables teachers to provide various media to support diverse learning styles, such as talk, pictures, films, and multimedia technology.

- **Inclusive Environment:**

By fostering a more inclusive environment, you can unlock the potential of every student in your classroom.

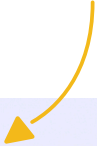
- **Support Networks:**

Stronger support networks mean more support groups and online communities for neurodivergent students and their families, helping them feel less isolated."

- **Efficiency in Assessment:**

AI can assist in grading and provide immediate feedback, allowing for more timely interventions and support where needed.

Scan For On Demand Videos & Transcripts:



Neurodiversity in the Digital Age

Resources:

[Download our full E-book here](#)

Neurodiversity in Education:
Onyinye Udokporo

Neurodiversity Consultant
BBC, Microsoft



Onyinye Udokporo

30:47

[Download video transcript](#)

My DSA and University Journey:
Emily Gee

Former DSA Student
University of Winchester



Emily Gee

17:27

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How AI Empowers Neurodivergent Students:
Anne Sheppee & Fee Kempton

Neurodiversity Consultant
Edtech Consultant



Anne and Fee

28:03

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Our Experts And
Start Your Ayoa
Journey Today!

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