

British Dyslexia Association invitation to tender: Dyslexia screening tools for children and young people

Issue date: 16 December

Submission deadline: 19 January

For queries: register@bdadyslexia.org.uk

1. Introduction

The British Dyslexia Association is inviting bids from organisations that provide high-quality and affordable dyslexia screening tools for children and young people.

We aim to partner with one or more providers to increase access to high-quality, evidence-based screening solutions that can be used in schools, educational settings, and by parents and carers.

The BDA is a national charity working to create a dyslexia-friendly society for all. Through this tender, we hope to identify tools that align with our values and can support early identification and intervention for children and young people.

2. Purpose of this tender

We are inviting proposals from suppliers who can provide a validated, age-appropriate, and user-friendly dyslexia screener. We are seeking partnerships that will help the BDA achieve its mission of early identification and equitable support for people with dyslexia across their lifespan.

We are looking for partnerships that will help the BDA:

- Support schools and families in recognising early signs of potential dyslexia.
- Promote fair access to screening regardless of background
- Ensure screeners are inclusive, accessible, and reflect current research
- Provide high-quality guidance and reporting to support next steps for both children and adults.

Whilst the primary focus of this tender is on school-age children, suppliers are encouraged to indicate whether they offer validated screening tools suitable for adults, including in workplace settings, for potential future use.

3. Scope of supply

The BDA is interested in screening tools that may include:

- Online or digital screeners suitable for children and young people aged 6–16
- Tools designed for use by parents and/or carers
- Evidence of validation and accuracy
- Clear reporting functions
- Accessibility features for diverse learners

The BDA is recognised as a trusted source of advice for families, schools, and workplaces. Accordingly, any screening tools we signpost must be of the highest quality, providing clear guidance and meaningful support. We are particularly mindful of affordability and are seeking tools that can deliver robust assistance in a cost-effective manner to families and individuals who may face financial or other barriers.

We are open to considering multiple models of partnership, including licensing, co-branding, or referral agreements. Our proposed approach is twofold:

1. **Signposting:** We aim to guide families, schools, and workplaces toward high-quality screeners that offer the best value.
2. **Supporting Access:** Where possible, we intend to either fund or donate a percentage of screeners each year to those who need them most, ensuring equitable access - though the exact number of recipients will be determined annually. Suppliers are invited to indicate whether they would be interested in supporting this initiative, for example through discounted or donated licences, co-funding opportunities, or other collaborative approaches that help maximise access for families and individuals in need.

This approach reflects our commitment to making validated, effective dyslexia screening accessible to all, while fostering sustainable partnerships with suppliers who share our mission.

4. Supplier response

Bidders should provide:

- A brief overview of their organisation and experience in dyslexia screening
- Details of the screener, including evidence of research or validation, and examples of metrics used to track the effectiveness of your screener
- A demonstration link or example report (if available)

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- Examples of reports provided to end-users, including any accompanying resources, guidance, or recommended actions based on the screening outcomes
- Details of any training, user guidance, or ongoing technical support provided that would be provided to users of the screener.
- Pricing or licensing model (for individual users and multi-use educational settings) including renewal terms and any free or subsidised offerings for schools or charitable initiatives.
- As a charity with no statutory funding, we welcome a commitment to support the work of the BDA, this could be in the form of product donation, a donation per sale of goods or other initiatives. Whilst there is no obligation, suppliers are therefore invited to indicate whether they would be interested in supporting initiatives such as discounted, subsidised, or donated licences to schools, families, or individuals in need. Please provide details of what you would propose, including scope, scale, and any conditions or limitations.
- Please explain how your product aligns with the BDA's mission to provide equitable access and high-quality dyslexia guidance.
- Please provide details of any existing charitable partnerships, community or educational initiatives, and any free or subsidised offerings to educational settings you perform outside of this proposal, along with a summary of your own mission, values, and commitment to supporting learners with dyslexia
- How the product supports accessibility, inclusion for diverse learners. Include details of features or design considerations that enable use by children and adults with different needs, including those with sensory, cognitive, or physical challenges.
- Technical and user requirements, including details of any software, hardware, or connectivity needed to access and administer the screener, as well as any other operational conditions or dependencies.
- Confirmation that the product complies with UK GDPR and relevant data protection standards.

5. Conflicts of interest

Bidders must declare any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest that could influence, or be seen to influence, the impartiality and integrity of their bid. This includes any financial, personal, or organisational relationships with the British Dyslexia Association (BDA), its trustees, staff, or partners, as well as any situations where a bidder may stand to benefit from information, decisions, or activities related to this tender.

Bidders should outline how any declared conflicts will be managed to ensure transparency, fairness, and the safeguarding of children and young people involved in dyslexia screening.

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The BDA reserves the right to reject bids where conflicts of interest cannot be appropriately mitigated, or where such conflicts risk compromising the independence and credibility of the proposed partnership. If bidders are unsure whether a situation constitutes a conflict, they should disclose it for consideration.

6. Financial stability

To ensure the sustainability and reliability of any partnership, bidders must demonstrate that their organisation is financially secure. Please provide:

- A statement confirming financial stability and ability to deliver the proposed services throughout the contract term.
- A copy of your most recent audited accounts or equivalent documentation.
- Details of any significant financial risks or liabilities that could impact delivery of services.

The British Dyslexia Association reserves the right to request additional financial information or references to verify the bidder's financial standing.

7. Evaluation of tender submissions

All tender submissions will be evaluated through a transparent and structured assessment process to ensure fairness and alignment with the British Dyslexia Association's aims.

Bids will first be reviewed for compliance with the mandatory requirements set out in this tender, including eligibility, completeness of documentation, and adherence to deadlines. Submissions that meet these initial criteria will then be assessed against a set of weighted evaluation factors, including the quality and evidence base of the dyslexia screener, accessibility for children and young people, safeguarding considerations, technical robustness, user experience, and value for money.

The evaluation panel will include staff and trustees from the BDA and may involve external advisors where appropriate. Each criterion will be scored independently, with final decisions based on the combined total.

The BDA may request clarification, demonstrations, or interviews with shortlisted providers to support a thorough assessment.

The organisation reserves the right to reject any submission that fails to meet required standards or does not align with the BDA's mission to support dyslexic children and young people.

Criterion	Weighting
Quality and reliability of the screening tool	20%
Accessibility and usability for non-specialists	20%
Evidence base and validation	20%
Value for money and scalability	25%
Contribution to the BDA's charitable mission	10%

8. Submission details

Deadline: 19 January at 5pm.

Format: Please submit a PDF or Word document by email:

register@bdadyslexia.org.uk

Queries: Any clarification questions should be submitted no later than 22 December.

9. Next steps

Shortlisted providers may be invited to demonstrate their tools to the BDA team before a final decision is made. The BDA reserves the right not to appoint if no suitable proposal is received.