

What are the underlying skills that affect literacy?

8 barriers to literacy for neurodivergents

Memory & processing

Working & short-term memory



Holding information in mind in order to work with it

Affects spelling, decoding, sentence construction, comprehension, working across sources, editing, drafting, speed

Processing speed



I can get there... I just need more time.

Affects speed, work rate, comprehension, reading and writing fluency, working across sources, editing and drafting

Word processes

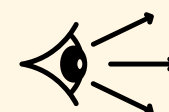
Phonological awareness



Identifying, discriminating and manipulating speech sounds

Affects decoding, spelling, word reading, reading fluency and learning new vocabulary

Visual processing



Perceiving, recalling & discriminating between visual symbols

Affects word recognition, spelling, reading fluency, letter discrimination, automaticity and keeping place in text

Self-management

Executive function



Planning, organising, sustaining attention, self-regulating and adapting

Affects planning, structuring, drafting, editing, proofreading, monitoring for meaning, comprehension, managing time and attention

Motor skills & sensory processing

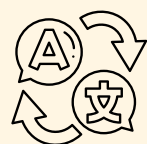


Planning and coordinating movement, responding to sensory information

Affects handwriting, posture, writing fluency, use of writing tools, attention, self-regulation, writing stamina

Language

Vocabulary, grammar and sentence structure



Knowledge and use of vocabulary, grammar and sentence structure

Affects punctuation, understanding, use of vocabulary, sentence structure, use of tense & grammar

Language comprehension & expression



Functional understanding and use of language

Affects comprehension, understanding and use of text types, expressing ideas, the writer's voice

