

Recommended neurodiversity readings for educators (and everyone!)

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About these reading lists

These reading lists are excerpted from the Learning About Neurodiversity at School (LEANS) teacher handbook (Version 1.0, June 2022). They assume that you have encountered some neurodiversity terminology before.

List #1 is for readers who are relatively new to neurodiversity.

List #2 is for readers who have more experience with the topic, and are looking for more depth and detail.

List 1. New to neurodiversity? Try these sources

You may find it useful to look at these resources in the order they are listed.

1. Autistic Mutual Aide Society Edinburgh (AMASE) Glossary

Online resource

A concise guide to some basic vocabulary useful for talking and reading about neurodiversity.

<https://amase.org.uk/glossary/>

2. Neurodiversity is for Everyone

Article

Why neurodiversity is an important idea for everyone to understand, and how it relates to disability and diversity more broadly.

<https://oolong.medium.com/neurodiversity-is-for-everyone-f375a27aa3c9>

3. Understanding neurodiversity in the context of equality and inclusive practice

Guidance document for professionals

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/salvesen-research/leans>

A professional guide for teachers from the General Teaching Council for Scotland, who also have useful guides to autism and dyslexia.

Information about the GTCS guides: <https://www.gtcs.org.uk/News/news/gtcs-publishes-asl-professional-guides.aspx>

Direct link to the neurodiversity guide:

<https://www.gtcs.org.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.aspx?IID=8838&sID=11411>

4. What is Neurodiversity and what should schools be doing?

Article

A TES article giving one writer's view of what neurodiversity should mean for schools.

<https://www.tes.com/news/what-is-neurodiversity>

5. A Different Sort of Normal

Book

Primarily aimed at kids, this is an engaging and easy to read guide to neurodiversity, as well as an account of the author's experiences growing up as an autistic girl (but only realising that later). This could be particularly helpful when it comes to discussing neurodiversity with kids.

<https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/443103/a-different-sort-of-normal/9780241508794.html>

List 2. Have some experience with neurodiversity, or looking for more detail?

1. Neurodiversity: some basic terms and definitions

Online resource/article

A more in-depth exploration of the language of neurodiversity.

<https://neuroqueer.com/neurodiversity-terms-and-definitions/>

2. Clearing up some misconceptions about neurodiversity

Blog/ online magazine article

Neurodiversity is often misrepresented and misunderstood; this important Scientific American Magazine piece tackles some of the myths head-on.

<https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/observations/clearing-up-some-misconceptions-about-neurodiversity/>

3. The Different Minds podcast

Podcast series

The broadcaster John Offord discusses neurodiversity-related topics with a wide range of guests in this podcast. Start with Judy Singer, credited with coining the term, or Siena Castellon, founder of Neurodiversity Celebration Week.

<https://anchor.fm/differentminds>

Suggested episodes:

<https://anchor.fm/differentminds/episodes/In-conversation-with-Judy-Singer---creator-of-the-term-Neurodiversity-eiadof>

<https://anchor.fm/differentminds/episodes/Neurodiversity--the-new-normal-ehlng1>

4. The Neurodiversity Reader

Edited book

A scholarly but largely accessible collection of texts exploring key ideas about neurodiversity, both in theory and in practice.

<https://www.pavpub.com/mental-health/the-neurodiversity-reader>

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