D-ESL

Adaptation of learning content for students with SLDs

Some examples of what exists

Examples of existing games for students with SLDs

Introduction

As much as we would love to give an extensive list of exemplary games developed for the teaching of English as a foreign language specifically adapted for learners with Specific Learning Disorders (SLDs), the fact of the matter is that such **examples are not easy to come by**. It is even harder to find engaging existing games for teenagers, most educational games online usually targeting young children. Nevertheless, options exist and we have prepared a list of some activities to try with your students.

Examples of existing tools

Video Games

D-ESL Games

One of our goals with D-ESL is to fill the need for inclusive ESL games. When the project is more advanced, **36 pedagogical games will be available**. Make sure to have a look at our page of resources to check if they are not available at the moment you are reading, you may be in luck: http://d-esl.eu/en/resources/

Wordshark

Wordshark is a paid option for schools, developed in the UK, for reading and spelling. It offers game-based solutions, advertised as especially effective for learners with SLDs, including dyslexia. https://www.wordshark.co.uk/

Knoword

Knoword is an online game-based learning platform to train vocabulary. It can make for a fun class activity or assignment. Teachers can create an account and make their own content, for their class. https://playknoword.com/

Board Games and Card Games

"Word Witt"

A commercial card game to reinforce **phonemic awareness**

https://www.dyslexiagames.com

Articulate

Another commercial board game, advertised as a guessing game. Players have to **describe a word** without saying it and other players have to **guess the word within 30 seconds**. This sort of game can be played with more than 20 players, so it may be adapted to your classroom. It may also a good time-filling activity.

Balderdash

Yet another commercial board game, but which can be easily played with a dictionary and pieces of paper. Players are faced with a word, that may be fancy and a bit difficult, and they have **to guess or make up a definition for it**. It can be an activity to do in small groups, as it trains vocabulary and allows students to express their creativity while practising English. Learn more about the game: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balderdash

Collection of games

Dyslexia Games

Dyslexia Games sell packages of games in the form of booklets for dyslexic learners for age 5 and up. https://www.dyslexiagames.com/

The Family Gaming Database

It provides nice resources if you want to integrate a more traditional video game. They are not focused specifically on SLDs, but include **skill, age, accessibility ratings, inclusive representations** and thorough descriptions of games to help identify if a game is fitted for your students. https://www.taminggaming.com

Other lists of games

You may find lists of games that could suit your needs and those of your students with SLDs online. For instance:

- https://www.speedreadinglounge.com/dyslexia-games
- http://dyslexiahelp.umich.edu/tools/fun-games-for-dyslexics

Other game-based learning activities

Learning while having fun is the core idea of the game-based approach. With some creativity, there are many more other activities that you could bring to the classroom, than those listed above. If you feel that you have a safe environment and that your students are comfortable

with you and with their peers, why not use karaoke apps to practice pronunciation, for instance, if your students are comfortable with the idea.

Conclusion

The resources provided above are only there as examples, but you may find other games, or collections of games, that may fit your needs and those of your students. We would also like to encourage you to develop your own games. Have a look at our resources page, you may find what you need to get you started.

Resources and references

- http://dyslexiahelp.umich.edu/tools/fun-games-for-dyslexics
- https://numberdyslexia.com/10-cool-board-games-for-kids-with-dyslexia/
- https://www.speedreadinglounge.com/dyslexia-games
- https://www.wordshark.co.uk
- https://playknoword.com/
- https://www.taminggaming.com

Learn more about D-ESL at: https://www.d-esl.eu