

**Adults with dyslexia demonstrate orienting deficits specific to  
limitations in attentional focus.**

Judy Buchholz & Anne Aimola Davies

**ABSTRACT**

Alerting, orienting and executive control of attention is investigated in five adult cases of dyslexia. In comparison with a control group, alerting and executive control were found to be generally intact for each case. Two spatial cueing tasks were employed. For the task requiring target detection only, orienting difficulties were evident in peripheral locations. While orienting attention to parafoveal stimuli was intact for this detection task, it was found to be impaired for the discrimination task. These results are discussed with respect to the methodological differences of the two tasks. It is suggested that there is an orienting deficit specific to adjusting size of attentional focus in individuals with dyslexia, and that this could contribute to the reading difficulties observed.

KEY WORDS: dyslexia, visual attention, spatial cueing, alerting, orienting, executive control