#47 Dyslexia & Technology with Dr Kate Saunders of the British Dyslexia Association and Mike Tholfsen, Microsoft

Show notes and further reading
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WHAT'S IN THIS EPISODE?

10% of the population are estimated to be dyslexic. That means that for every ten of your colleagues, or ten of your students, or ten of your relatives or friends, on average, 1 has dyslexia. In the work place, the law stipulates that you must make 'reasonable adjustments' to accommodate the needs of dyslexics. That might mean managing overloading environments such as open plan offices, adjusting intranets or screens so that they are less stimulating, allowing for longer time periods for organisation or kicking off a dyslexia mentoring scheme within your place of work. But what is being done before work, in schools, colleges, and Universities to move the national dialogue to one which celebrates neuro-diversity at the earliest moment and supports Dyslexic learners?

This episode features Dr Kate Saunders, CEO, The British Dyslexia Association and Mike Tholfsen, Microsoft Education in conversation about:

- **Tools and coping strategies for dyslexic learners**
- **What resources, training and funding is available for teachers working with dyslexic learners**
- **Microsoft's Learning Tools, OneNote and Class Notebook features for Dyslexic learners and the story behind how this came to fruition**
- **An efficacy pilot study between the BDA, Microsoft and Knowl Hill School in the UK on improving dyslexic learner outcomes**
- **Dr Kate Saunders' own inspirations and tools as a dyslexic**

Don't forget to check out the solo interviews with Dr Saunders and Mike Tholfsen on The Edtech Podcast feed for extra insights.

SAMPLE QUOTES

- The new curriculum puts much more attention to the student being the centre of learning.
- Finland: we are a research-based education.
- It's my mission. I want to change Math education, not just in Finland, but in the whole world.
- Interdisciplinary Math is very important.
- 8 students out of 10 are solving mathematics based on memorising. This really shows what is happening in math classes all over the world. We have to change it.
- Learning in the classroom is not only working with the computers or tablets, it’s working together.
- The first learning games have been made for consumers and now I am talking about schools
- It's very important what kind of principal you have in your school and what kind of system you have in your country.
- About 50 years ago Finland was one of the poorest countries in the world and now we are one of the richest countries. We don't have oil, but we have the education.
- We have to give the environment of learning to students.
- We need a big(ger) investor to bring the project to the next level.

SAMPLE QUOTES

Mike Tholfsen:

Learning tools hit the right note, we saw the right responses. It's not just about accessibility, but also about empowering everyone.

We tried to design among other pieces what is called the "immersive reader", a set of techniques known to help people with ADHD, dyslexia and dysgraphia etc. and put them together adding some new technologies.

We started a research project with Kate Saunders from the BDA looking at measuring the efficacy of learning tools in the classroom.

Technology can help a teacher scale and personalise in ways that might be impossible otherwise.

In the US, at least on average, you'll see 4 levels of reading in one class and teachers are expected to personalise.

Kate Saunders:

10% of the population has some degree of dyslexia. Everybody who teaches in the educational system teaches dyslexic people.

There is a better awareness about dyslexia nowadays in the UK. The education system is more aware but it's not consistent.

Multi-sensory learning gives dyslexic people more chances to learn.

Dyslexics are very good learners, but what we have in the education system is a mismatch between the way they learn and the way they are taught.

If they cannot learn the way you teach, can you teach the way they learn?

The use of technology can become useful. It's all about reasonable adjustments.

QUOTATIONS/ REFERENCES

Mike Tholfsen, Principal Product Manager, OneNote at Microsoft

https://twitter.com/mtholfsen

https://twitter.com/onenoteedu

https://www.linkedin.com/in/miketholfsen

https://twitter.com/microsoft_edu

Microsoft Hackathon:

https://news.microsoft.com/features/microsoft-hackathon-2015-winner-extends-onenote-to-improve-learning-outcomes-for-students/#sm.00019w17d92dpcxszfw12flf8329l

OneNote/Learning Tools:

https://www.onenote.com/learningtools

ReadAloud app:

https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/store/p/readaloud/9wzdncrdn3ms

Bett:

http://www.bettshow.com/

ISTE Conference, San Antonio

https://conference.iste.org/2017/

Alan November

https://twitter.com/globalearner

Kate Saunders, Chief Executive Officer at British Dyslexia Association

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http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk

http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/services/quality-mark

Help with connecting young people to the BDA through tech:

https://bdatech.org

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http://www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk/page/access-work-0

Dr. Margaret Newton, Aston University, Birmingham

http://www.aston.ac.uk

https://uk.pinterest.com/pin/577728076942460 42/

AA Gill:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A._A._Gill

Come and say hello to Mike Tholfsen and Dr Kate Saunders at Bett 2017 at the Microsoft Village, register here.

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This week's episode is a goody, covering Finland's education landscape, Angry Bird's educational games development with NASA, philosophy, and launching a new game based around particle physics!

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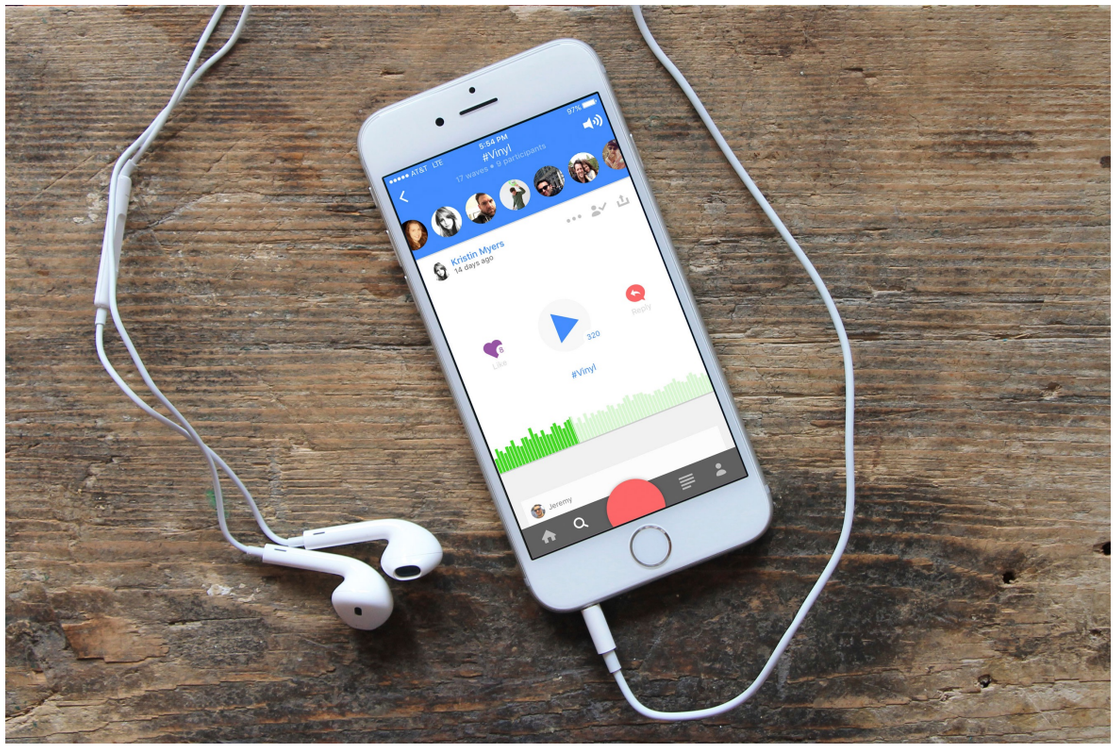

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