

Welcome to **Day 7** of Elizabeth Wilkinson's
'Inspirational to me dyslexics guest blog
for Dyslexia Awareness Week 2020

What's your Name? Charlotte Arnold

How old are you? 23

Where in the world are you? Shrewsbury, Shropshire

What is your occupation? Staff Nurse

What's the name of your business/employer/university? Severn Hospice

How old were you when you were diagnosed dyslexic? 17

What difference has finding out made? My whole life now makes so much sense. I blossomed in my education and got the career of my dreams


Which do you prefer: *I am dyslexic*, or *I have Dyslexia*? I am Dyslexic

What three words would you use to describe yourself? Bubbly, ditzy and caring

What 3 words would your friends and family choose to describe you?

Determined Caring Beautiful (apparently haha)

What is your best/proudest YES! moment? When I got a first in my nursing degree

If you could have one gadget, piece of equipment or software for free - what would it be, and why? Contact lenses to replace my green glasses and overlays!
(You can get these, so Eli has sent Charlotte some links )

If you had the day off to do anything at all - what would you do? I would go somewhere hot and sunny and just have a lie down with a nice cocktail or two!

Who on the planet inspires you the most? Every single nurse I have ever worked with and will have the pleasure to work with in the future.

Did you like School? 1 = not at all and 10 = loved it: 7



What did you like most about school? I loved the social side of school. I love seeing my friends every day. Also, I loved the creative side of school with my art and product design!

Who was your favourite teacher and why? My favourite teacher was my Science teacher who gave me extra lessons in science at lunch times to help me pass my exams to get into college when I decided I wanted to be a nurse.

If you could go back in time, what one piece of advice would you offer to your younger school aged self, and what age would that be? You're not stupid you're just different. You don't talk too much or don't listen, you're brain just doesn't work the same as everyone else's. Probably just aged 6-17

Are you glad you went for your dyslexia assessment? It changed my life for the better. So many doors to help and opportunities have been opened since my assessment and diagnosis.

Is there anything you wish someone had told you before you went for your assessment? How long it would take, it took hours! And that I could possibly be diagnosed with other conditions too!

If you could go back in time what message would you give to your 13-year-old self? You will be a nurse and you will be a good nurse, don't let anyone tell you any different!!

Do you have any advice for anyone who has just been diagnosed dyslexic?

Do not be afraid to tell people/ your employer of your diagnosis. They are more understanding than you would ever think, and it will be a weight off your shoulders!

Anything else you would like to add or say to our readers?

“Just because you're dyslexic doesn't make you any less than anyone else. You are just as intelligent and worthy of learning and opportunities than anyone else! Never let it hold you back from your aspirations and dreams!”

Charlotte Arnold, 2020