

Introduction, Context & Current Initiatives

Sally Russell



“I actually think it doesn’t matter what the name is, but I do think **IT should be named**. If you don’t label things no one is aware of them and you don’t get any intervention.”

“I understand why people debate the concept, but ...it does exist and we know that those children don’t respond to normal classroom interventions and they need something else.”

Prof Maggie Snowling DBE



“I think a lot of people bothered about the name are actually bothered about the diagnosis, so it’s a different way of expressing that actually *dyslexia* doesn’t exist.”

‘Word of Mouth’
BBC Radio 4, 2019



Barriers

- Nature of autism awareness
- Basic training in neurodiversity
- Pace and nature of research
- Variability in practice development
- Few 'interventions'



Improving outcomes

- Widening understanding
 - Government's DHSC statement, Autism Strategy review, Mandatory training
- University education and professional training
- Develop evidence, involve professionals and autistic voice
- Focus on what helps... on outcomes
 - 'Ask Listen Do' Campaign
- Leadership



+outrage!
OPTIMISM

