

'Equipped4Learning'
(Registered Charity in England and Wales)
(Charity Number 1184110)
www.equipped4learning.org.uk
info@equipped4learning.org.uk
paypal.me/equipped4learning
Twitter @Equipped4L
Facebook – Equipped4Learning



Equipped4Learning was founded in 2019 by Nicky Bament. Nicky is a highly skilled occupational therapist with 22 years' experience of children with Dyspraxia, DCD & Dysgraphia from West Yorkshire. The charity was setup with the aim to provide specialist equipment for children and young adults across West Yorkshire, that are under the umbrella of Neurodiversity (Dyspraxia, DCD, ASD, Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, Dyscalculia, ADHD & DLD).

Diagnosis is not necessary, but the equipment needs to be recommended by an AHP or specialist teacher and evidenced with the application. The equipment will need to enable or aid the child or young adult to access their education. At present up to 3 pieces of equipment can be requested, although may not all be funded (funds permitting).

They cover primary, secondary, and home schoolers. They also consider applications from university students as well but on an individual basis and dependant on availability of funds at the time of application.

A further reason for starting the charity was after identifying a lack of equipment for children and young adults under the umbrella of neurodiversity requiring specialist equipment to fully enable them to aid their educational needs. The equipment can include specialist pens/pencils, angled boards, laptops, touch typing software and C-Pen Readers. The is not an exclusive list and all equipment ordered is individual to the needs of the child/young adult.

As it stands the charity does not get any funding assistance or grants and all the money they have, must be fundraised in-house, or gets donated to them. The charity started with no money in the bank. All the money goes on the applications and equipment. So, any money donated will go straight to the recipient's equipment. The more funds they have, the more applicants they can approve; they hate the idea of turning anybody away that needed assistance.

They now have 3 application windows a year which are October, March, and June. These will be open for the whole of those months, please see the website for the full criteria and to obtain the application form. They decided on 3 monthly application windows so that they could have gaps to replenish funds. This need not be the case if they had sufficient funds to help people all year round.

Between the end of October 2019 and January 2020 they approved 10 applications and sent out 16 items of specialist equipment. This was quite a feat considering how new they were, and how they are still trying to become a more well-known charity to use. They have had exceptional feedback with all commenting on the speed/ease of the process to a quick delivery of the equipment.

The ideal future for 'Equipped4Learning' would be to include pre-school school children and widen their geographical area, with the dream of being nationwide in the not too distant future; but to fulfil this wish they need to have the funds and as much support as possible behind them in order to drive the charity forwards.