

## Workshop for Classroom Assistants and Integration Aides:

### Supporting the needs of Students with Learning Difficulties in Class, in Small Groups and also individually

Presented by Karen Starkiss

One of a teacher's most valuable resources in the classroom is their Teaching or Integration Assistants. Teaching assistants play an important role in helping to improve learning; they are integral to the successful learning of all children and are recognised as playing an important role in the school. Teaching and learning for all students with learning difficulties can be extended and enhanced by highly trained Teaching Assistants.

**Workshop outline:** the workshop will be practical and those attending will be provided with ideas, activities and resources to take away and use immediately in class and for supporting and teaching individuals and groups of students.

#### Workshop Content Includes:

- ❖ Why some children learn differently
- ❖ Understanding and supporting good, whole school, practices such as Provision Maps and Independent Learning Plans
- ❖ Developing and maintaining good methods of communication with school staff
- ❖ To develop a range of integration strategies to support students with specific learning difficulties in class
- ❖ Specific support for reading, writing and maths
- ❖ Using Technologies to support students. Ideas for class work, free resources to download and games and activities to play
- ❖ Supporting individual students and small groups
  - Cognitive weaknesses- what these are, how to identify them and games and activities to remediate
  - Reading and spelling- phonics and high frequency words
  - Alphabet and dictionary work
- ❖ Putting it all together. How to plan a programme for individuals.
- ❖ Questions and Recap



#### COSTS

\$1100 for a full day 9.00 am – 4.00 pm. It could also be delivered over 2 or 3 shorter sessions (e.g. twilight) if you are in Melbourne/ suburbs.

\$590 for 3.5 hour twilight/ half day (doesn't include individual programs)

**Prices are for up to 50 members of staff within the Melbourne area: one workshop could be delivered to class assistants from a group of schools**

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I will travel to anywhere in Victoria

#### TESTIMONIES

*Brilliant course: I came away feeling much more capable of helping kids who are struggling and identifying what they need help with. **KM Southern region***

*Fantastic, well run, knowledgeable speaker. Left with much information to sift through and try out. **JH Southern Region***

*Interesting, eye opening, informative and very practical; we can really put into practice what we have learned. **S.O. Southern Region***



**Karen Starkiss: brings over 30 years of experience as a teacher of primary and secondary students in the UK and therefore knows what to recommend and what is practical. In England, she was Principal of one of the top performing primary schools, despite the fact that she had the highest number of students with severe Learning Difficulties in the County. She has also worked in “failing” schools to quickly improve standards of teaching and learning. In 2006 she moved to Australia where she has since established the Dyslexia Assessments and Support Services. Karen has wide experience in assessing dyslexic children, teenagers and adults for learning difficulties and is currently providing in-service professional development to schools regarding creating and implementing dyslexia-friendly schools. Karen has been interviewed by the Age and on ABC radio about her expertise in dyslexia and has advised A Government Task Force in Canberra about supporting children with learning difficulties. Since 2014 she spent some time working with the Education team in the ACT and Northern Territories, to put together a program to make all schools inclusive and accessible to all students, provided training for Expert and Lead teachers and professional in the ACT to enable them to implement the program in individual schools. In addition to running her own support service for children and adults with SpLD Karen is also Director of Learning and Development for Speld Victoria**

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND FOCUS GROUPS:

Victorian Institute of Teachers  
British Dyslexia Association  
Learning Difficulties and Dyslexia Stakeholder Reference Group DEECD Vic  
VCAA Special Provision Focus Group

## RECENT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

The BIG GIG Learning Difficulties conference Victoria  
NDCO Inclusive Learning conference (Monash Uni)  
Re-thinking Dyslexia Conference Melbourne  
Taskforce on Students with Learning Difficulties ACT  
Learning Difficulties Conference Canberra

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATIONS 2014:

SCHOOLS IN-SERVICE includes: The Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Fleetwood Primary, Ballam Park Primary, Taylor's Lakes School, St Joseph's school Cobram, Lakeside Lutheran P-12, Solway Primary School, Doncaster Primary School, Montmorency Secondary College, Mount Eliza Primary School, Shepparton ACE College, Catholic College Wodonga, Rangebank Primary, St Bernard's School Wangaratta, Berwick Primary school

ACT Department of Education: Taskforce on Students with Learning Difficulties seven days: Train the Trainer Program- training school Principals, psychologists, advisors, teachers, support assistants and parents: Intervention Strategies to support students with learning difficulties  
Dyslexiclever Parents' and Teachers' workshop Macedon Ranges

Woodend regional workshop Vic

Ballarat Teachers and Support Assistant Workshop Vic

Shepparton Teachers and Support Assistant Workshop Vic

ACT- Presentation to School Principals & advising/planning methods to ensure training is embedded

Parents' workshop Canberra How to Support your child with learning difficulties at home and school

NDCO Teachers and tutors of students 14 year+ in the following areas: Traralgon, Bairnsdale, Dandenong and Peninsula- Creating a Dyslexia-Friendly Learning Environment.

Casual Relief Teachers Workshop Ballarat

South West Parent Support Group: for parents and teachers of upper primary and secondary children

Mount Eliza Primary presentation to parents

Screening and Assessment for early Intervention- Kerrimuir Primary

Weetangara Primary Teachers and parents- Canberra

Northern Territories Department of Education Alice Springs and Darwin: 7 days: workshops for Principals, psychologists, advisors, teachers, support assistants, Special Needs Association and parents: Intervention Strategies to support students with learning difficulties

NDCO Teachers and tutors of students 14 year+ Dandenong- Creating a Dyslexia-Friendly Learning Environment.

Ronald McDonald House Teachers and Tutors

## LECTURER/PRESENTER FOR:

Meeting the Needs of Students with Dyslexia and other LDs- Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment

Screening and Assessment for Early Intervention in School

Using Games to Develop Language and Vocabulary in the Classroom

Creating a Dyslexia friendly and inclusive classroom- on a Budget

Success Stories for Social Situations for Children with Autism

Teaching Reading to Struggling Upper Primary and Secondary School Students

How to Support your child with learning difficulties at home and school

Classroom and individual literacy support for students with learning difficulties

How to Teach Your Child to Read