

Teaching Reading to Struggling Upper Primary and Secondary School Students

Addressing the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (APST)

Presented by Karen Starkiss

The Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates that 7.3 million Australians - almost half the adult population - have problems with literacy. In 2010, Australia performed the worst out of all English speaking countries, and our score was lower than that of 21 other countries.

In this presentation Karen will help attendees gain insights, knowledge and strategies which will help them support secondary school students that are struggling to read, including:

- ❖ What makes a proficient reader
- ❖ How to identify specific weaknesses in individual students
- ❖ A look at some reasons why students maybe struggling for example: visual difficulties, memory and discrimination issues
- ❖ Remediation including high frequency words, phonics, comprehension and fluency
- ❖ Ideas and activities that will help to improve reading ability
- ❖ Helpful strategies, resources, and websites to support students, parents and teachers.



Cost: 2 hour course - \$440

This course can be designed for parents and teachers combined.

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ABOUT THE PRESENTER

Karen Starkiss has over 30 year's primary classroom teaching experience and therefore knows what to recommend and what is practical to adopt in a mainstream classroom. 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 Learning Difficulties in the County. She was also employed to work in "failing" schools to improve standards of teaching and learning. She has been part of a team who have provided in-service support to staff about integrating children with learning disabilities into mainstream schools and making their schools inclusive for all children. In 2006 she moved to Australia where she has since provided accredited training workshops for teachers to make their classes 'Dyslexia- Friendly.' She also assesses children and adults for dyslexia, which include a number of upper Primary and Secondary school students who are struggling with reading and writing. She has been interviewed about her work by The Age Newspaper and has advised A Government Task Force in Canberra about supporting children with learning difficulties. Since 2014 she has spent some time working with the Education team in the ACT, to put together a program to make all schools, more inclusive and accessible, provided training for Expert and Lead teachers and professional in the ACT to enable them to implement the program in individual schools.