

How to Support your Child with Specific Learning Difficulties, including Dyslexia at Home and at School

Presenter Karen Starkiss

It is estimated that up to 10% of the Australian population is dyslexic. A dyslexic child, who finds it difficult to read and write, can also suffer anguish and lack of confidence with some aspects of the school curriculum and/or when they compare themselves to their friends. Dyslexia is a learning disability; however there is so much that can be done with appropriate support and resources to help children who are dyslexic, both at home and at school. The workshop will explain to parents how to recognise the signs and symptoms of dyslexia and how to help your child at home. It will also cover how to work in partnership with the school to support your child in reaching his/her potential.



How to Support your Dyslexic Child

The course content includes:

- What is dyslexia and what causes it?
- How to recognise the signs and symptoms of dyslexia in children
- A dyslexic child's strengths and talents
- What does it feel like to be dyslexic? –practical sessions to help parents understand their child's difficulties
- Common questions asked by parents
- How can you support your child at home and school?
- Where to get advice and help
- Useful websites and resources for children and their parents



COSTS

\$250 for 2-3 hour presentation (price is the same regardless of the length of workshop). Can be help for groups or in schools for parents during the day or evening.

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I will travel to anywhere in Victoria

TESTIMONIES

I thought that the course was fantastic and well worth attending. I loved the practical tips and strategies to try out at home and school, which I know I can do easily. LP- Yarraville Support Group

The course went far beyond what I had hoped for. An outstanding presentation, which provided a wealth of tremendous, practical ideas to assist all students to improve their literacy skills. Two of the best PD hours I have had- PV Bendigo support Group

I found Karen so informative. I have been to a lot of PDs; this is the best ever, I learnt so much- SS Bendigo Support Group



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