Creating an Inclusive and Accessible Learning Environment for Students with Learning Difficulties in the Classroom

Presented by Karen Starkiss

There are about 10% of children in Australia who are dyslexic, the most common and prevalent learning difficulty and it is also highly probable that a dyslexic child will have at least two other disabilities such as autism, ADHD, dyspraxia, processing impairment etc. Many of these children have a mild level of difficulty and with simple changes they can be successful learners in the mainstream classroom. For those that experience problems at a more severe level, it is critical that the classroom and methodologies are designed to meet their needs.

By implementing these changes you will raise the potential of all students, student with Learning Difficulties cannot cope without them.

Workshop Outline:
The workshop is aimed mainly at how to support children with LD in the classroom and will provide ideas, activities and resources that you can use immediately. The workshop will include hand-outs and resources.

Workshop Content Includes:
- How to recognise that a child is dyslexic
- How to gather evidence and informally assess individual students in class
- Identifying individual learning styles and creating a multi-sensory environment
- To develop a range of strategies to support dyslexic children in class and in small group
- Specific support for reading, writing, mathematics and spelling
- Using ICT to support students and ideas for class work
- Lots of ideas and practical activities to support learners
- Good websites with free resources to support both teachers and students

When

Southern Region- Alice Springs
Monday 6th October
Corkwood Room, Desert Knowledge
8:15am - 3pm (lunch provided)

Darwin & PaRR teachers
Wednesday 8th October
Room A & B, 3rd floor, Harbour View Plaza
8:15am - 3pm (lunch provided)

Darwin & PaRR school support staff
Thursday 9th October
Room A & B, 3rd floor, Harbour View Plaza
8:15am - 3:30pm

Testimonies

Extremely valuable. Lots of strategies that are both useful and practical. Wonderful addition to the first session offered in this series. Fell quite empowered after today-KG Teaching and School Leadership section

It was good to hear ideas/perspectives from someone who is obviously an expert on the subject. I appreciate all of the information and engaging anecdotes- KS Ainslie

Thank you as this is a highly valuable and informative course. Thank you, Karen for sharing your expertise as it has improved my understanding and provided strategies. Thanks for the humour and anecdotes- MK Kingsford Smith School

Karen Starkiss: Dyslexia Assessments and Support Services. Karen 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 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 accredited 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. This year she spent a number of days 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 and for Learning Support Assistants to enable them to implement the program in individual schools. She has also provided workshops for parents

RSVP by 12 September: michelle.harwood@nt.gov.au