

## Tutors for Students with Dyslexia or Dyscalculia

The following list of tutors only work in Victoria, Australia. I would love to have details of trained dyslexia tutors in other states or in any countries around the world. Please send me information, which I can publish.

### **Caroline Roberts**

Caroline Roberts is a qualified primary school teacher and experienced in working with children from prep through to year 7 in a range of different settings. She has taught children with a range of learning difficulties including dyslexia, ADHD and ADD, Aspergers syndrome and auditory processing disorders. Caroline has a passion for assisting children with learning difficulties develop their literacy and numeracy skills and uses a range of multi-sensory approaches to help children in a fun and supportive environment. Karen says: Caroline lives close to me and I have referred a number of students to her. All parents have been full of praise for the support she has provided. Contact Karen for Caroline's contact details.

### **Jennifer Wells**

Jennifer is a primary school teacher who is dyslexic and has three dyslexic sons. She has been studying and researching dyslexia for the last 20 years and develops programs to suit individual needs. She works with all age groups including adults. Jennifer works in Mornington. Contact Jennifer at [helpeltutoring@hotmail.com](mailto:helpeltutoring@hotmail.com) or website: [www.eltutoring.com.au](http://www.eltutoring.com.au)

Taken from Jennifer's Essential Learning & Tutoring website: 'Our approach is not about 'teaching' or 'telling'. By firstly approaching the child with respect, we assist individuals to engage in learning by creating an environment that is safe. We believe that every child is gifted with the capacity to learn, it is just up to us to find the right combination of techniques to suit them!'

### **Kylie and Barry Rasmussen: Experienced Tutors for Students with Dyslexia and Dyscalculia**

I met Kylie and Barry Rasmussen at the Big Gig; a conference organised for people interested in promoting awareness of dyslexia in Victoria. Kylie and Barry come from Canada, where there is far better acknowledgement, training and provision for students with dyslexia than there is in Australia. Kylie and Barry, like me, were shocked at the lack of provision and training in Australia.

Although we only spoke for a short time their commitment and enthusiasm for support dyslexic students was immediately obvious. They are currently able to tutor students with dyslexia and dyscalculia and they have provided information that I would love to share with parents and teachers in Victoria:

We're both experienced teachers trained and credentialed in Multisensory Structured Reading Education, and we love it! We have students in grades 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 and adult right now. We have 11 sessions per week, and we could potentially manage up to 40 with just us (Wow, that would be busy!). Thanks for being so kind to us! At the same time, I know we can help more children. I remember talking with you about the types of education out there, and I have heard so many stories of thousands of dollars wasted on private tuition which isn't research based and highly skilled. We're truly glad to help each child! - School is so hard without intervention, and we aim to provide that, so things aren't so hard... We're located in Doncaster and we can be contacted on **03 9043 6307** and **0450 250 266**. Also, our current rate is \$55.00 per hour, and we can help parents who cannot afford a speech pathologist's rate or higher special educator rates for one to one literacy intervention. In a little while, this will rise, but for now, we think we're pretty affordable! ;) Kylie's Biography

Since gaining specialised training in teaching literacy to dyslexic students, I have become passionate about teaching reading, writing, and spelling to students in need of assistance, who need a different way of teaching and learning! The changes I have seen for students in language led me to upgrade my instructional skills in maths. I reflected on my own learning and realised I could have learned maths better, as my students have experienced in language. I simply needed to learn more actively and hands on. Now I provide thorough, active, hands-on instruction in maths for students who learn differently.

After gaining a one year credential in reading, spelling, and writing instruction for dyslexia and related learning difficulties (with a supervised practicum), I trained in maths teaching for learning differences (2 post graduate courses). Now, I am working on a Masters in Special Education at Macquarie University. Previously, I have taught English at many levels, Art (hands on), and Humanities (conceptual and critical thinking), as well as in distance learning (tuition in varied subjects) spanning 13 years classroom teaching, and 5 years of recreation instruction, in which I mostly worked with pre-schoolers. I trained in primary and secondary education and have taught all year levels and many students with specific learning differences/difficulties. I enjoy helping to turn around academic achievement for students and seeing their confidence improve. Barry's Biography

I feel extremely excited and privileged to work 1 on 1 skilfully teaching reading and maths to students with dyslexia. During my previous eight years of teaching I worked with children in Years Prep to nine. The methodology I'm currently practising has given me a renewed satisfaction because it forms a strong foundation to build literacy and numeracy. What has especially surprised me was that how I now teach can be used for students who have significant gaps in their reading, writing, spelling and maths to those students who may require enrichment in these areas. The expertise I now possess provides me the advantage to diagnostically analyse students' learning, to focus on the skills they need to learn. The aspect I find incredibly rewarding is that I am now teaching at a much deeper level to support learners in a cognitive way. I'm looking forward to continuing my practice, as it will be exciting to see how much each one of my students improves.

### **Felicity Brown**

Felicity Brown is an experienced tutor who has worked with teenage dyslexic students for a number of years. She works in the Eastern Suburbs and her contact number is: 0400887393

### **Dennis Baker**

Dennis is a qualified teacher with over 30 years' experience. He has tutored many primary and secondary school students from Grade 1 to year 12 (HSC/VCE). He has also tutored university students in maths, English and science. At all levels the tutoring has included students with a range of diagnosed learning difficulties including autism, dyslexia, intellectual disability (mild to moderate IQ 40-70) and attention difficulties (ADD and ADHD).

Dennis works in the Albury/Wodonga area and his charges are very reasonable: \$40 per hour.

Contact: 02 6059 1888 or 0437369522

### **Elena Peiros-** tutors children in Melbourne for Reading, Spelling and Mathematics.

Elena has received training Spalding Method and Fitzroy Program of teaching children to read, spell and write. In teaching, she mainly uses the Fitzroy program materials as she finds them student-friendly and rewarding as the students start reading stories after they have learned the first 13 letters. Elena combines other methods and programs when necessary and according to the needs of the child.

Elena reports that, 'One of my dyslexic students initially had been one of the last students in her class in learning to read and her teacher even advised her parents to repeat the grade. Now, after 10 months of tuition she is one of the best students for her grade in reading.

I enjoy teaching and love children. It gives me a great pleasure to provide them with the tools to become successful. I get great satisfaction from seeing the look on their faces when they realise they can read, write or calculate as well as anybody else and even better than some!  
Contact Elena on: 0402065154

### **Betsie Fitzgibbons**

Betsie Fitzgibbons is a maths tutor focussing particularly on children with dyslexia (and dyscalculia where applicable). She is able to tutor both junior and senior school children. Until moving to Australia two months ago, Betsie was Head of Department of Maths at a small school in the UK specialising in dyslexia. (Web address: [www.moonhallcollege.co.uk](http://www.moonhallcollege.co.uk)).  
Contact Karen for details

### **Sue Spencer**

My name is Susan Spencer, and I am a Special Education Teacher who offers one-on-one tutoring in Literacy and Numeracy for children with a wide range of learning difficulties, including Dyslexia. I teach reading and spelling using a phonic based approach, teaching students the 44 sounds of the English Language and how to blend the sounds into words. I use a range of resources including the THRASS materials, magnetic letters, and phonic based readers such as, the Dandelion Readers, the Fitzroy Readers and readers from the UK program called, 'Read Write Inc.'. I also make great use of appropriate software such as, Wordshark, Numbershark, Textease and an online program called Studyladder, to reinforce what I have taught.

My teaching is very direct, explicit, systematic and Multi-sensory. I thoroughly teach a new sound/grapheme each week and give students spellings to learn in word families. I dictate sentences; do plenty of "sounding out" exercises both for spelling and reading, so as to raise the student's phonological and phonemic awareness, which is often one of the underlying deficits in Dyslexia. Students are taught frequently used words which are hard to sound out, with a range of strategies, including mnemonics for spelling, and snap and memory games for reading words.

Students with processing difficulties or short term memory difficulties need plenty of practice and repetition in a fun, supportive learning environment.

Initially, I will assess the student with standardised tests in Reading, Spelling and Numeracy. Following the testing a report will be written. After 20 individualised lessons, I will retest and write another report. I am available to attend meetings at schools or to liaise with teachers and other specialists.

Presently, I have some vacancies. My operating times are Monday to Friday from 7.30 am to 6 pm. For more information please visit my website [www.spencereducation.com.au](http://www.spencereducation.com.au) or call me on 9589 7089 or 0409 709 758.

**Kids Like Us** Australia Limited (KLU) is a social enterprise in the Bayside area of Melbourne that was founded in February 2012 under the directorship of Anne Jackson and Catherine Kirby. KLU provides support, understanding and opportunities for students who are "twice exceptional". Twice exceptional students are gifted and show academic, creative, or musical talents however they also live with a challenge that prevents them from reaching their potential, for example a learning disability (such as dyslexia), mental health or behavioural issues (such as Asperger's Syndrome or anxiety) or social economic circumstances (such as disadvantaged families).

Kids Like Us works with children and young adults, their families and teachers to find positive ways in which these students can navigate the current educational system through counselling, learning support, advocacy, mentoring, professional and family development.

Kids Like Us has primary trained teachers and trainee counsellors who work under the supervision of Anne Jackson to provide group work and individual tuition during the 3 hour session. The skills provided are designed to increase the student's vocabulary via reading, speaking and writing as without word knowledge students are unable to increase their basic knowledge. This is done via games, being read to and reading, specific instruction in how to structure a piece of writing, hands on teaching of the Oxford words, word family instruction, art and drama. All activities are interwoven into a focused topic for the term in order to increase confidence for project work, knowledge of English language behaviours (e.g. grammar, tenses, syntax etc.) and self-efficacy.

For students who are lacking confidence and are not happy enough to learn at this time Anne is able to provide counselling individually outside these hours which focuses upon self-belief and determination. This may be needed prior to the group work in order to maximise learning opportunities.

Kids Like Us regularly advocates for students and provides consultations for schools on modification of the curriculum for students Kids Like Us is working with. From July 2013 Kids Like Us staff, are able to provide specific tutoring, from 7.30 – 10.30 on Wednesday mornings, for identified dyslexic students who are in primary school.  
Contact us: [enquiries@kidslikeus.org.au](mailto:enquiries@kidslikeus.org.au) 0430 817659

**Emily Ballenden**

Emily Ballenden works in Sunbury, Victoria  
Phone: 0405 213 166

Tutoring Prep to year 7

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor of Education P-12
- Postgraduate certificate in Educational Learning and Leadership

**Studying:**

- Postgraduate certificate in Special Education