

How to Support your Child with Dyslexia and other Learning Difficulties 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. Children with Dyslexia learn differently it becomes a learning disability when we don't allow them to. 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?
- Effective technologies to allow access to help your child learn and demonstrate their potential
- Useful websites and resources for children and their parents



Testimonies from Parents

- ✓ 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**

About the Presenter

Karen Starkiss: brings over 30 years of experience as a teacher of primary and secondary students in the UK. 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. Karen has wide experience in assessing dyslexic children, teenagers and adults for learning difficulties and is currently providing in-service professional development to schools, Tafe and employers regarding creating and implementing dyslexia-friendly schools and workplaces. 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. During 2014/2015 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. During 2015-2017 Karen sat on an advisory panel to the wellbeing team at DET in Victoria and ran workshops for principals and senior managers on their behalf. On a personal note she is mum to two children with dyslexia and other LDs.

