



Specific Learning  
Difficulties SA



# 2024 Professional Development Catalogue



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MESSAGE FROM  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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“SPELD SA is a not-for-profit organisation with a strong commitment to providing guidance and services to children and adults facing specific learning challenges.”

Welcome to the **SPELD SA** professional learning catalogue for schools in 2024.

We have an ever-growing team of passionate staff with expertise in inclusive education, educational psychology, and speech pathology, with a particular focus on supporting students with specific learning difficulties, such as dyslexia.

Our professional learning schedule has been developed with educators in mind, meeting current demands for evidence-based, high-quality instruction that has practical application in the classroom. Many of our workshops and training courses are available both online and face-to-face at our dedicated training facility or can be booked for in-school training.

At SPELD SA, we invest in professional learning for our staff to ensure their knowledge reflects current best practices. In addition, we undergo a continuous improvement process through workshop feedback and speaking with our member schools to understand their needs. Our popular literacy and numeracy clinics allow us to implement and trial new products so we can provide first-hand advice on resources that aid learning.

We are passionate about helping schools to implement evidence-based structured synthetic phonics programs that are grounded in research, to ensure strong literacy outcomes for all students. We offer training in a range of phonics programs and provide follow-up mentoring and support that is local and accessible.

Our team can further assist you with classroom observations and modelling, parent information sessions, and advice on resources.

Beyond the workshops featured in this catalogue, we regularly feature guest presenters and have exciting plans to expand our product offerings. Be sure to visit our website, subscribe to our eNews, and follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay connected with us and remain informed about our latest updates and special offers.

**Laura McLachlan**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

# Courses

Welcome to SPELD SA, committed to empowering professionals for successful learning. Our specialised courses address teaching challenges, enhance methodologies, and provide valuable resources. Our experienced Educational Consultants are experts in literacy, numeracy, and supporting learners with difficulties. As a trusted partner to the South Australian Department for Education, SPELD SA is dedicated to elevating teaching excellence. Join us on a journey of professional growth and impactful education.

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## MEET OUR TRAINERS

SPELD SA is a non-profit organisation that has provided advice and services to individuals with specific learning difficulties for over 50 years. We offer educational training, parent workshops, consultations, assessments, tutoring and literacy programs. Additionally, we provide mentoring to support educators transfer the learning from our professional development into the school setting. Collaborating with schools, universities, and other institutions, we serve as a preferred Professional Development provider with the Department for Education.



**Kerry Williams**

**Director of Teaching and Learning  
Accredited Sounds-Write Trainer**

Kerry started her teaching career in secondary English and holds a master's in Inclusive Education. Her passion for evidence-based literacy instruction was sparked by her son's struggles with learning difficulties. Kerry became a Sounds-Write trainer in 2021 and has led the Professional Learning, Literacy Clinic and Tutor Service.



**Dr Skye McLennan**

**Director, Psychology and  
Clinical Services  
Accredited Clinical Psychologist**

Skye is a Clinical Psychologist with 15+ years focusing on children, specialising in learning and developmental differences. Devoted to client-centered assessments, she tailors services to the child and family's needs, ensuring an inclusive and enjoyable approach.



**Alice Kleinig**

**Educational Consultant &  
Presenter**

Alice a Special Education Teacher, Consultant and professional development facilitator with a wealth of experience in inclusive education. Well-versed in SACE completion and VET in schools, she is passionate about helping all students develop the skills and strategies necessary to reach their full potential.



**Emma Murphy**

**Educational Resources Coordinator  
& Presenter**

Emma a Primary School Teacher with a decade of Independent School experience, passionately supports students with learning needs. Emma is the SPELD SA Educational Resources Coordinator, focusing on developing materials alongside current research in education.



**Genine Riley**

**Educational Presenter  
Accredited Sounds-Write Trainer**

Genine an experienced educator in Victoria and South Australia, specialises in teaching English as an Additional Language or Dialect. Her enthusiasm for effective reading and spelling instruction, sparked by Sounds-Write training, drives the program's success in both whole-class and intervention settings at SPELD SA.



**Kylie Hallion**

**Educational Consultant &  
Presenter**

Kylie an educator with over 25 years of experience in Singapore, England, and Adelaide, skillfully shares her knowledge in evidence-based approaches to literacy instruction. She supports educators to strengthen their professional knowledge and practical teaching strategies to ensure programs are delivered with understanding and fidelity.



**Ilona Sydney-Jones**

**Educational Consultant  
Accredited Sounds-Write Trainer**

Ilona is an online Sounds-Write trainer and mentor with extensive education experience. She has been involved with the Literacy Clinic at SPELD SA successfully for several years, as a practitioner and team leader. The clinic provides high quality intervention for in-person and remote instruction, empowering students with challenges in reading and spelling.



**Ecaterina Eltahir**

**Provisional Psychologist &  
Mental Health Social worker**

Ecaterina a Provisional Psychologist and Mental Health Social worker. Her experience includes roles as a Mental Health Social Worker in government, NGO, education, and private practice, serving as a Family Counsellor, Student Counsellor, and Youth Clinician. Known for her friendly and inquisitive approach, she is dedicated to working with children and families.



# Dyslexia and Specific Learning Disorders

In every classroom throughout Australia there are students struggling with their academic work. While the diagnosis of a Specific Learning Disorder requires specialist knowledge, teachers at all levels of education and other professionals can play a vital role in both identifying students at risk and assisting them with reaching their full potential.

This workshop will provide educators and other interested professionals with:

- An introduction to Specific Learning Disorders such as dyslexia, dysgraphia, and dyscalculia, with a focus on dyslexia
- Clear, accessible information about how these disorders affect the learning process, and what they might look like in students
- Information about myths and confusing terminology, and approaches to avoid
- Key knowledge needed about evidence-based strategies for supporting those with Specific Learning Disorders

## EXPLORE LEARNING HERE

**Face-to-Face:** Available for in-school sessions or at SPELD SA location

**Duration:** 3 hours

**Note:** SPELD SA Member schools are eligible for a discount on their bookings.



# Supporting High School and Adult Learners with Specific Learning Difficulties

This training is for anyone who is supporting high school students or adult learners and wants to know more about specific learning difficulties, such as Dyslexia. This would be highly applicable to you if you work in services such as Learner Support Services (LSS), Flexible Learning Options (FLO), and Foundations Skills Trainers (FSK).

This workshop will focus on:

- Understanding learning difficulties and disabilities
- Interpreting the Disability Discrimination Act
- Student wellbeing
- Strategies for supporting learning
- Supports for organisation and time management
- Positive communication strategies
- Adjustments and accommodations for assessment
- Utilising technology to support students success

## EXPLORE LEARNING HERE

**Face-to-Face:** Available for in-school sessions or at SPELD SA location

**Duration:** 3 hours

**Note:** SPELD SA Member schools are eligible for a discount on their bookings.



## Sounds-Write

Sounds-Write is a highly effective evidence-informed linguistic phonics program, with a focus on multisensory and code-oriented methods

This course provides educators with:

- An understanding of the skills, conceptual knowledge and code knowledge that students need to become competent readers and spellers
- A carefully developed scope and sequence moving from simple to complex from Reception to Year 2
- The knowledge to use the program in Years 3-6
- An understanding of how to use the program as intervention in primary and secondary settings
- Diagnostic tools to know where to start students in the program
- An approach that is successful in whole class, small group, and one-on-one settings
- The option to complete the course either as a 4-day face-to-face training or online training over a 6-week period
- Hands on experience in delivering Sounds-Write lessons with differentiation strategies

### WHO IS THIS PROGRAM FOR?

Educators

Tier 2 & Tier 3 Intervention Educators  
School Leaders/Literacy Coordinators  
Literacy Support Staff/Tutors  
Speech Pathologists

### RESOURCES

**Sounds-Write manual:** Included in the course fee.

Discover valuable content resources available on the Sounds-Write platform:

**Sounds-Write.co.uk**

- Sounds-Write Practitioners' Portal
- Trained Practitioners' Downloads
- Sounds-Write Podcast
- Free resources for teachers
- Support for Parents and Carers

**Sounds-Write Decodables:**  
[www.spelsa.org.au](http://www.spelsa.org.au)

### ACCREDITED TRAINERS



Kerry Williams



Genine Riley



Ilona Sydney-Jones

### EXPLORE LEARNING HERE

**Face-to-Face:** Available for in-school sessions or at SPELD SA location

**Duration:** 4 Days with a compulsory assessment

**Online:** Duration 6 weeks

**Note:** SPELD SA Member schools are eligible for a discount on their bookings.



UFLI Foundations is an explicit and systematic program created by the team at the University of Florida Literacy Institute.

This workshop provides educators with:

- A program that introduces students to foundational reading skills necessary for proficient reading
- A carefully developed scope and sequence to ensure students systematically acquire and apply the skills with automaticity and confidence
- Core instruction material for intervention with struggling students in any year level
- A review of essential background knowledge of the Science of Reading
- In depth exploration of each lesson step
- Recommendations for progress monitoring

### WHO IS THIS PROGRAM FOR?

Reception to Year 2 Educators  
Tier 2 & Tier 3 Intervention Educators  
School Leaders  
Literacy Coordinators  
Literacy Support Staff/Tutors

### RESOURCES

**UFLI manual:** available to purchase from the SPELD SA Shop

Discover valuable content resources available on the UFLI platform and YouTube

[ufl.education.ufl.edu](http://ufl.education.ufl.edu)

- Free toolbox Online UFLI

### YouTube

- UFLI Foundations Implementation Overview
- How to Implement UFLI Foundations Day 1 lessons
- How to Implement UFLI Foundations Day 2 lessons
- UFLI Foundations Progress Monitoring and Differentiation
- UFLI Foundations Slide Deck Tutorial

### ACCREDITED TRAINERS



Emma Murphy



Kylie Hallion

### EXPLORE LEARNING HERE

**Face-to-Face:** Available for in-school sessions or at SPELD SA location

**Duration:** 6 hours - Full Day

**Note:** SPELD SA Member schools are eligible for a discount on their bookings.



## Jolly Phonics

Jolly Phonics is a multi-sensory synthetic phonics program, that includes activities and games for reading and spelling in addition to the main teaching content.

This workshop provides educators with an understanding of:

- How to introduce the 42 main sounds of English to students at the beginning of their schooling and for those older students requiring additional literacy support
- The role of phonological awareness
- Components of a synthetic phonics lesson
- Blending and segmenting skills
- Tricky words
- Alternative spellings and spelling strategies
- The role of decodable texts
- Assessment and data collection tools
- Practical resources designed to support teaching and to motivate and engage students

### WHO IS THIS PROGRAM FOR?

Early Years Educators  
School Leaders/Literacy Coordinators

### RESOURCES

**Jolly Phonics teacher handbooks:**  
Available to purchase at SPELD SA

Discover supplementary resources available for download on our website:

[www.speldsa.org.au](http://www.speldsa.org.au)

- Free SPELD SA Decodables
- Free SPELD SA instructional handbooks
- Free Jolly Phonics progress monitoring tools

### ACCREDITED TRAINER



Kylie Hallion

### EXPLORE LEARNING HERE

**Face-to-Face:** Available for in-school sessions or at SPELD SA location

**Duration:** 6 hours - Full Day

**Review & Refresher:** workshop revisiting key content and program is also available.

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Note:** SPELD SA Member schools are eligible for a discount on their bookings.





PLD's method stems from the fields of speech pathology, occupational therapy, and education to include Literacy, Oral Language and Movement & Motor skills.

### Implementing PLD in Junior Primary (Reception, Year 1 & 2)

This workshop provides educators with:

- Knowledge and tools to systematically target pre-literacy and early literacy skills
- Skills to implement PLD's structured synthetic phonics program
- Methods of targeted teaching and tracking and reporting of skill development

### PLD in the Middle and Upper Primary (Year 3, 4, 5 & 6)

This workshop provides educators with:

- A targeted structured synthetic phonics program to meet the literacy needs of all students, including those who need additional support or extra challenge
- Tools to systematically address the range of abilities in middle and upper primary classes
- A practical, realistic and time efficient scope and sequence



#### TRAINER

Diana Rigg, Educator and Speech Pathologist and Founder of PLD Promoting Literacy Development.

#### WHO IS THIS PROGRAM FOR?

Reception to Year 6 Educators  
School Leaders  
Literacy Coordinators  
Literacy Support Staff

#### EXPLORE LEARNING HERE

**Face-to-Face:** Available at SPELD SA location

**Duration:** 6 hours - Full Day

**Note:** SPELD SA Member schools are eligible for a discount on their bookings.

## Did you know SPELD SA members are entitled to many benefits?



### Become a SPELD SA Member today

Designed for schools and organisations working with children and adults with specific learning difficulties. Joining the SPELD SA community gives you access to our Members only specialist library, discounted resources through the SPELD SA Shop, discounted workshops and training and extra offers through our national affiliations.

**DIBELS is an evidence-based assessment for accurate evaluation of literacy acquisition skills. Grounded in the Science of Reading, a 40-year research effort spanning disciplines such as education, psychology, and neuroscience, it illuminates the intricacies of learning to read.**

This research empowers educators to craft evidence-based, best-practice methods for teaching reading and spelling. DIBELS employs these findings to create assessments informing best practices. DIBELS 8th Edition comprises concise fluency measures for universal screening, benchmark assessment, and progress monitoring of reading skills, applicable from Reception to Year 8.

## DIBELS 8TH Edition

### PART 1 – Administration and Scoring

This training includes learning how to use the University of Oregon’s free assessment materials (DIBELS 8th Edition Materials | DIBELS® (uoregon.edu) which include Letter Naming Fluency (LNF), Phonemic Segmentation Fluency (PSF), Nonsense Word Fluency (NWF), Word Reading Fluency (WRF), Oral Reading Fluency (ORF) and Maze, as well as an introduction to data-based decision making using DIBELS 8th Edition data.

It will assist you with:

- Understanding the theoretical rationale and purpose for the use of DIBELS 8th Edition
- Understanding the rationale for releasing DIBELS 8th Edition and learning about key subtest updates
- Becoming reliable DIBELS 8th Edition assessors and understanding the administration and scoring procedures to collect reliable, valid student performance data

## DIBELS 8TH Edition

### PART 2 - Interpreting Data and Planning for Instruction

This training includes:

- Revisiting the purpose of the DIBELS 8th assessments and the administration and scoring of each DIBELS subtest
- Detecting reading risk by mapping data from each of the DIBELS subtests to the benchmark goals and the Big Ideas in Beginning Reading
- Using DIBELS data to plan for instruction within a multi-tiered system of support
- Provide an opportunity for participants to examine data to identify patterns and trends at the grade, class, and individual student levels

## TRAINER



Dr. Sarah McDonagh, an independent literacy consultant, holds a doctorate in Special Education from the University of Oregon. With expertise in early reading and prevention of difficulties, she collaborates with schools in New South Wales, contributing to research and improving reading practices.

### EXPLORE LEARNING HERE

Online Training Part 1: 2 Full Days

Online Training Part 2: 2 full Days

**Note:** SPELD SA Member schools are eligible for a discount on their bookings.

Our local SPELD SA trainers can come to you to deliver the essential information required for getting started with DIBELS 8TH Edition

This workshop will provide educators with:

- An introduction to DIBELS 8th Edition
- Guidance on the administration of the assessments and scoring with opportunities for practice
- Information on how to record data
- Advice on how to interpret collected data to inform practice

### EXPLORE LEARNING HERE

**Face-to-Face:** Available for in-school sessions

**Duration:** Up to 6 hours

**Note:** SPELD SA Member schools are eligible for a discount on their bookings.



## Science of Reading

'The Science of Reading' is the culmination of decades of multi-disciplinary research. We know that learning to read is a complex cognitive and linguistic challenge. Teaching students to read effortlessly with comprehension requires years of well-designed instruction.

This workshop will provide participants with:

- Information about how children learn to read and why some students struggle
- The essential components of reading instruction and the significance of each component
- Evidence-informed models of reading development and the research underpinning the development of reading accuracy, fluency, and comprehension
- A review of the implications this has for both whole class instruction and individual or small group intervention

### EXPLORE LEARNING HERE

**Face-to-Face:** Available for in-school sessions or at SPELD SA location

**Duration:** 6 hours - Full Day

**Note:** SPELD SA Member schools are eligible for a discount on their bookings.

# Everything You Need to Know about Decodables

Decodable readers are one piece of the puzzle when it comes to literacy instruction. They are essential when students are first learning to read and align with a synthetic phonics reading approach. With an abundance of decodable options, we will help you determine the best choice for your setting.

This workshop will provide educators and other interested professionals with:

- An understanding of the key features of decodable books, including the evidence behind their use and why they are so critical in the early stages of reading
- Advice in choosing a quality reader and matching it within a structured synthetic phonics program
- Practical activities to develop skills in reading and writing
- Information on when and how to transition onto non-decodable readers

## EXPLORE LEARNING HERE

**Face-to-Face:** Available for in-school sessions or at SPELD SA location

**Duration:** 90 min

**Online:** 90 min

**Note:** SPELD SA Member schools are eligible for a discount on their bookings.



## Is your school part of a rural, regional, or remote area?

Our annual regional tour, endorsed by the Department for Education, enables regional parents carers to gain insights into learning difficulties.

*SPELD SA can provide this FREE workshop, if eligible, for your parent community.*

### Understanding Reading Challenges: How We Can Help Together.

This 2-hour workshop is a valuable first step in understanding reading difficulties, offering practical strategies for assisting children. It covers the basics of how we learn to read and introduces effective teaching practices applicable to all students. Attendees will gain insights into reading difficulties, including dyslexia, and practical understanding of associated characteristics.

*Register for a FREE parent workshop at your school*

*Please register by emailing [workshops@speldsa.org.au](mailto:workshops@speldsa.org.au) with your contact details and a preferred Term (1-4) or contact us on 8431 1655 for more information. We can visit up to 15 schools per year so register ASAP to secure your place in the calendar.*



This initiative is supported by the Department for Education.

Jolly Spelling builds upon the skills taught in Jolly Phonics. The program provides a systematic and sequential approach to teaching Spelling for Years 1 to 6. Spelling should be an exercise in logic, problem solving and discovering patterns rather than merely memorising weekly spelling lists. Students should be active participants, provided with opportunities to discover patterns, form generalisations and knowledge that can be transferred to spell a range of words.

This workshop will examine:

- A synthetic phonics approach to teaching reading and spelling
- Consonants, vowels, alternative spellings of the vowel sounds, syllables, schwa, prefixes, suffixes, base words and word origins
- Spelling principles to support student understanding
- The role of spelling lists and dictation
- Practical activities and resources to compliment the spelling program

## EXPLORE LEARNING HERE

**Face-to-Face:** Available for in-school sessions or at SPELD SA location

**Duration:** Up to 3 hours

**Note:** *SPELD SA Member schools are eligible for a discount on their bookings.*

Jolly Grammar builds upon the skills taught in Jolly Phonics. The program provides a systematic and sequential approach to teaching Grammar for Years 1 to 6. An understanding of grammar supports students to become capable communicators, use a wider vocabulary and have a clearer understanding of how language works. The most dramatic improvement from the Jolly Grammar program will be found in the quality of student writing as they become familiar with the role of grammatical features and different types of words and word groups to convey information and represent their ideas.

This workshop will examine:

- The sequential and cumulative framework of Jolly Grammar
- Parts of speech, proof reading, punctuation, vocabulary and word choice to support clear and effective communication
- Practical ideas and experiences to compliment the teaching grammar across year levels.

## EXPLORE LEARNING HERE

**Face-to-Face:** Available for in-school sessions or at SPELD SA location

**Duration:** Up to 3 hours

**Note:** *SPELD SA Member schools are eligible for a discount on their bookings.*



# Prevention and Intervention of Maths Difficulties - Bond Blocks

**Bond Blocks is a mathematics program informed by research using evidence-based methodology, developed by Australian teacher Narelle Rice together with Dr Paul Swan.**

Bond Blocks is a whole school system made up of ready-to-go, sequenced resources to build a firm foundation from counting to calculating in addition and subtraction. Bond Block resources can be used:

- At Tier 1 as part of quality, differentiated whole class teaching, from Kindergarten to Year 3, to reduce the numbers of students requiring intervention or
- At Tier 2 as intervention with small groups or
- Tier 3 with individual students on Individual Education Plans, from Kindergarten to Year 6.

The Bond Blocks System is made up of 3 kits of resources:

“Counting to 10 with Bond Blocks Kit” - Pre-Foundation Curriculum (4-year-old children)

“Counting to 20 with Bond Blocks Kit” - Foundation Curriculum (5-year-old children)

“Bond Blocks Core Intervention Kit” - Years 1 to 3 Curriculum

Each Bond Block resource targets the major predictors of maths difficulties, identified by research, with evidence-based teaching strategies. Each kit contains assessment and monitoring resources in both physical and digital formats, including a placement test. These resources have been designed to support students with learning difficulties and are linked to the Australian Curriculum, ABLEWA and Victorian Curriculum (Levels A to D).

## WHO IS THIS PROGRAM FOR?

This program is designed for a diverse audience, including teachers of Preschool/Kindergarten and Reception, as well as classroom teachers spanning Years 1 to 6. Specifically beneficial for classroom teachers in Years 4 to 6 whose students employ finger-based methods for addition and subtraction, the program is also well-suited for intervention teachers and education assistants assisting students with math difficulties.

Administrators seeking a comprehensive, whole-school approach to mathematics instruction will find this program valuable for fostering a robust mathematical foundation across various grade levels.

## TRAINER



Narelle Rice, an esteemed teacher and ECU graduate with first-class honors, dedicated two decades to education before specialising in mathematics. In 2016, inspired by stark contrasts in students' mathematical experiences, she initiated the creation of Bond Blocks. With family support and collaborative efforts with Paul, Bond Blocks became a reality after an 8-year period. The project encompasses her passion for transforming math education

## EXPLORE LEARNING HERE

### Face-to-Face:

Available at SPELD SA location

**Duration:** 6 hours - Full Day

**Note:** SPELD SA Member schools are eligible for a discount on their bookings.

# Explore the SPELD SA Decodable Readers!

Dive into the enchanting world of Sant the Ant and friends with beautiful outback themes, matched to the Jolly Phonics and Sounds-Write sequences.

Discover the magic within each cover!

At SPELD SA, we're passionate about empowering young readers through evidence-based phonics programs.

Our high-quality, Australian-made decodable books cater to beginner readers, ensuring a positive and successful reading experience.



## Jolly Phonics books each set contains 10 titles



Set 1

Set 2

Set 3

Set 4

Set 5



Set 6

Set 7

Set 8

Set 9

Set 10

## Sounds-Write books each set contains 10 titles



Set 1 Initial Code

Set 2 Initial Code



Set 1 Extended Code

Set 2 Extended Code

Members enjoy an exclusive discount on our decodable books.

[www.spelsa.org.au](http://www.spelsa.org.au)



Download our entire decodable series and more resources for free!