



Dyslexia - SPELD Foundation
CLINICAL SERVICES

Dear All,

I hope this message finds you safe and well. As with communities across the world, we have an incredibly challenging period ahead – and I trust that everyone receiving this email has access to the support, encouragement and advice they need.

The purpose of this letter is to let you know how the DSF team is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic – and to tell you a little about the services that we will be offering over the next few months. Our aim is to continue to support the schools, families and organisations that we currently work with (as well as those who are new to DSF) in a manner that is appropriate for these rapidly changing times.

We are currently working incredibly hard to shift most of our services to on-line platforms so that members of the wider community (including schools) can continue to access high quality clinical services, tutoring, professional development and resources via the internet. Much of this delivery will be personalised and interactive and we hope to begin the process of rolling out on-line services in the next two to three weeks. We look forward to your feedback on the experiences you have as you begin connecting with the DSF programs and resources available.

Professional Learning:

Much of our professional learning is being redesigned as synchronous on-line training, that will be both interactive and highly engaging. Our goal is to ensure that in the coming weeks and months a wide range of workshops will be made available to schools, individual teachers and allied health professionals – keen to engage in high quality, evidence-informed training. Initially, our aim will be to offer the schools and individuals who had booked workshops with us, an opportunity to transfer their existing registrations to an on-line version of the same training. We will then schedule new workshops and training sessions for all those keen to participate in one or more of DSF's highly sought-after training packages. We will keep everyone on our mailing list informed as workshops are scheduled but I suggest also keeping a close eye on our website.

T (08) 9217 2500 | F (08) 9217 2599 | E support@dsf.net.au | W www.dsf.net.au
A 10 Broome St South Perth | PO Box 409 South Perth WA 6951

"every child deserves the gift of reading."

Clinical Services:

Given the high demand for both DSF psychology and speech pathology services, we have been investigating a range of options that will ensure that we can continue to offer these services to families and schools throughout Western Australia. We have, however, been extremely careful not to adopt an approach that reduces the quality and efficacy of any of the clinical services provided. Our aim is to offer consultations, therapy and assessments on-line using a video-conferencing approach – enabling the psychologist or speech pathologist to engage directly with the child, adolescent or adult attending the appointment. We will be contacting everyone who already has a booking and checking to see whether they are happy to transfer across to the new format.

A benefit of this approach is that families who live outside the Perth metropolitan area will be able to access DSF's clinical services far more easily.

Tutoring:

Over the past two weeks we have been providing training to all DSF specialist teachers to ensure that they are effectively prepared to deliver on-line tutoring. From the beginning of second term, all individual and small group (participants located separately) tutoring will be provided on-line and will, in all cases, be personalised and interactive. This will apply to both individual tutors and to the tutoring services that are offered in any of the DSF Literacy Clinics. We have been impressed with the response to the training and excited about the possibilities on-line tutoring offers.

This change also allows us to meet the needs of more families in regional and remote locations.

Support and Advocacy:

It is of enormous importance to us that we continue to support children and adults with language and learning difficulties, their families and, of course, the professionals who work with them. We will be circulating the next edition of the Bulletin magazine electronically to all DSF members, all schools across Western Australia – and to all those in the wider community who have a standing order for the Bulletin with us. In addition, we are sharing a range of our most popular resources with the Department of Education to make available on their website – and we will be posting regular teaching tips and free resources on our website and via social media. We will also be moving our free parent information sessions on-line from the beginning of May.

Library:

Unfortunately, as has been the case with other libraries, the DSF library is no longer open to the public. Our members can, however, borrow resources through an on-line reservation system and we will post the resources out to you with a reply-paid satchel included with the resources. Members will receive an invoice for the postage, including the cost of returning the items to DSF. This will allow borrowers to drop their returned books into a street post-box rather than visiting a Post Office. The postage fee will depend on the size and number of items being borrowed. DSF library staff will determine which of the three satchel sizes is needed for the requested items and invoice accordingly. Please contact DSF to find out more about this service.

Bookstore:

There will be very few changes to the way in which the DSF bookstore operates. We do, however, anticipate that many of the families and schools we work with will be in touch to discuss suitable resources for students learning at home. We will be providing suggestions in the coming weeks and months in relation to those resources that are likely to prove particularly useful for this purpose; and will also be creating bundles of resources and DSF strategies that are ideal as 'working at home' packages. Unfortunately, the option of picking up book orders from DSF will not be available in the coming months but, assuming resources are in stock, we will certainly be able to send them to you quickly and efficiently.

Apologies for the long message! The purpose of doing so was to provide information that will hopefully assist in the ongoing support of schools, families and individual students across the State and beyond. We will continue to provide updates on our services through the DSF website (dsf.net.au), the DSF Facebook page (www.facebook.com/dyslexiaspeld) and through emails. As indicated at the outset, I hope that you, your colleagues, your families and your communities remain safe and well throughout these challenging times.

Warm regards,



Mandy Nayton OAM
CEO / DSF Literacy and Clinical Services
www.dsf.net.au / support@dsf.net.au / +61 8 92172500