

## Kindy Inclusion Service **Workshop Overviews**

All workshops are 60 minutes in duration and free to all approved kindergarten program providers in Queensland.



Workshop Title	Summary
<b><i>Understanding Learning Disabilities</i></b>	In Australia, up to 1 in 10 people have a learning disability. The most common ones are a Specific Learning Disorder: Reading, a Specific Learning Disorder: Writing and a Specific Learning Disorder: Maths. Development Language Disorder (DLD) can also impact the learning growth of individuals. 1 in 14 learners have DLD. Many of these disabilities will not be formally diagnosed until students are in primary school, though signs and symptoms can be present in the early childhood years. Early intervention is crucial. This workshop will enhance participants' understanding of learning disabilities and will explore evidence-based practices in the kindergarten year that are protective and inclusive for learners.
<b><i>Developing Phonological Awareness</i></b>	Phonological awareness, particularly phonemic awareness, is critical to the development of effective early literacy skills. It is a strong predictor of later literacy success. Children with learning disabilities or language difficulties can find phonological skills difficult and can find identifying and manipulating speech sounds at the phoneme level very challenging. This workshop will develop participants' understanding of the range of phonological skills and will identify ways Kindy educators can integrate phonological development into their daily programs within their service.
<b><i>Developmental Language Disorder and Oral Language</i></b>	Developmental Language Disorder is known as a 'hidden disability' impacting around 1 in every 14 children. DLD is a diagnostic term that refers to individuals who have difficulty using and/or understanding language. This workshop supports educators in understanding the diagnostic criteria, presentation, and implications for kindergarten teachers. It will explore ways oral language can be supported in daily kindy experiences. Participants will gain an understanding of what DLD looks like specifically in younger children, and universal-level intervention that can be implemented in the kindergarten setting, to serve as a protective measure for children that may be later diagnosed with DLD.
<b><i>Understanding Speech Sound Development</i></b>	This workshop offers educators insight into speech sound development in children. Designed to bridge the gap between speech therapy and early learning environments, it aims to equip teachers with the knowledge and tools necessary to support and enhance their students' speech sound skills. Participants will explore the milestones of speech sound development, the distinction between typical variations and disorders, and the impact of speech sound errors. The workshop will explore supports and strategies suitable for kindergarten children with the aim of supporting their speech sound development within play-based activities.
<b><i>Developing Vocabulary</i></b>	Developing vocabulary is a critical area of pre-literacy experiences. Expanding a child's knowledge of words provides unlimited access to new information and helps children to think and learn about the world. The size of a child's vocabulary in kindergarten can impact early literacy skills as they transition to school. Children with Developmental Language Disorder can find expanding their vocabulary difficult and require intentional teaching to support this process. This workshop will enhance educators' understanding of the role of vocabulary and will give practical strategies for including vocabulary experiences in daily Kindy contexts.
<b><i>Using literature to support language growth</i></b>	Using picture books to help children explore language is an excellent way of developing critical pre-literacy skills. Foundational aspects such as concepts of print, phonological awareness, phonemic awareness and vocabulary can be intentionally taught as Kindy teachers share stories and information texts with their learners. For learners with a potential learning disability or language disorder, picture books can offer a vital part of their support structures. This workshop will give educators a range of practical ideas for using literature and will explore a range of high-quality picture books and associated word play resources available from Speld Qld's Kindy library.
<b><i>Understanding Multilingual Language Development</i></b>	This workshop is specifically designed for educators working in increasingly multicultural and multilingual early learning environments. It aims to shed light on the intricacies of multilingual language development in children, emphasizing the unique challenges and opportunities it presents within educational settings. By focusing on evidence-based research, this workshop equips participants with a deeper understanding of how children acquire multiple languages, the normal patterns of language development in multilingual contexts, and how to distinguish between a language difference and a language disorder. Participants will also learn practical strategies for supporting multilingual students in their language acquisition journey, fostering a linguistically inclusive environment.