

Specialist Teacher Service

Frequently Asked Questions

2024

Speld Qld maintains a register of qualified specialist Teachers and Tutors who provide individual tutoring for children and adults across Queensland. This may take place either face-to-face in your home, face-to face in the Teacher/Tutor's home or office, online via live video web conferencing or a combination of both.

How do I find a Speld Specialist Teacher/Tutor?

Current Speld Qld Members can search for a Specialist Teacher/Tutor by logging into the Speld Qld Website and searching the [Register](#). Please note that this service is limited to our financial Members only. If you are not already a member, please register for Family Membership first.

How do I contact a Specialist Teacher/Tutor?

Once you have found an available Specialist Teacher/Tutor using the Specialist Teacher/Tutor Register, you can contact them via email using the *Enquire Now* button or by telephone if they have listed their phone number. If the Teacher/Tutor profile does not have a visible *Enquire Now* button, they are currently full and not taking students.

What happens after I email a Specialist Teacher/Tutor?

The Specialist Teacher/Tutor you emailed will respond to your email request within 48 hours to discuss your enquiry further and advise of their availability and negotiate the terms of your ongoing tuition. If you have not heard from the Specialist Teacher/Tutor within 3 days, please contact tutor@speld.org.au and we will follow up on your behalf. *Please be sure to check your email's junk mail folder to ensure an email was not sent there by mistake.*

How will instruction take place and where?

Please keep an open mind about how and when you access support with the Specialist Teachers/Tutors. Our Teachers/Tutors are in high demand and their availability is sometimes limited. Lesson delivery varies between Teachers and the Teacher that you are referred to may offer tuition either face-to-face, online, in your home, in their home/office or even at another workplace or school location. We respect the right of our Teachers and Tutors to offer lessons in the way that best suits their needs and instructional model. The Teacher/Tutor's preferred method of tuition delivery is stated on the website within the Teacher's listed profile under *Tutoring Type*.

What are the qualifications of the Speld Specialist Teachers and Tutors?

Research in literacy and learning span many disciplines including Education, Psychology, Linguistics and Speech Pathology. Speld Specialist Teachers/Tutors have come to practice specialist interventions from a range of backgrounds and experiences. While many are qualified teachers with Qld Teachers Registration, some are qualified Speech Therapists or Counsellors with specific experience, training and expertise in literacy and numeracy intervention. All are passionate about providing effective high quality, evidence-based, instruction to the people who need it.

Suitability as a Speld Qld Specialist Teacher/Tutor has been determined through an interview and screening process. Specialist Teachers/Tutors must have a demonstrated capacity to deliver results through an evidence-based literacy or numeracy program and have the interpersonal skills to create a safe and effective learning environment for the students with whom they are entrusted.

All Specialist Teachers/Tutors are current Blue card holders or have a Blue card exemption because they are Qld Teachers.

Speld Specialist Teachers/Tutors are encouraged to reflect on their practice regularly, must submit bi-annual reports to Speld Qld on their student progress, and commit to high quality annual professional development to maintain their membership. They also have access to a library of resources and a network of skilled professionals from whom they can draw.

Will the Specialist Teacher/Tutor come to my house?

Some of our Specialist Teachers or Tutors will travel to students' homes. Some teachers require families to travel to them or will meet for lessons in a local library. Some schools allow Speld Teachers to come to the school and there are some Speld Specialists who are available to work during school hours. It is important that you keep an open mind and be prepared to be flexible to access Speld Specialist Teacher services.

What is the fee for Specialist Intervention Instruction?

Speld Qld does not employ Specialist Teachers/Tutors but acts as a referral service. Teachers/Tutors have invested in training, resources and are qualified. They will be delivering a program that has been determined based on the individual needs of the student. The recommended hourly fee for services is between \$80 and \$100 but will be determined by each Specialist Teacher/Tutor. The Speld Teacher/Tutor will let you know their terms of service when you contact them. Teachers reserve the right to charge for missed lessons as they have allocated that time slot to a particular student for the whole term.

What will the Specialist Teacher/Tutor do with my child?

It is expected that the Specialist Teacher will do some basic testing initially and will then devise an individual support program for the student, with achievable goals that are focused on progress. Progress can then be recorded against the base testing.

'More of the same' type of work given at school, and even at times, in support programs at school, may not be the most effective approach for students with learning differences. Most often, a multi-sensory approach that goes 'back to basics' is required to identify and 'fill in the gaps'.

For reading, explicit teaching of phonics, going back to single sounds, then progressing through blends and digraphs is required. Ensuring that students have strong decoding skills is critical, so that they can attack new vocabulary and derive meaning from texts for lifelong spelling, reading and comprehension skill development. For mathematics, instructors will focus on foundation numeracy skills to ensure that students have the base number sense on which to build an understanding of more complex mathematical concepts.

Speld Specialist Teachers/Tutors will aim to meet the student where they are at, which may be at odds with the level at which school-based homework is being set. Specialist intervention is designed to provide a solid working knowledge of the fundamental skills from which other concepts can be understood and accessed. Speld Specialists design intervention programs in literacy and/or numeracy that address the root cause of difficulties that are impacting a student's capacity to access the curriculum.

There are many evidenced-based Literacy and Numeracy programs that your Specialist Teacher/Tutor may follow. If you have any questions about the program used by your Speld Specialist Teacher/Tutor or have any concerns at all, please contact the office and speak with one of our Education Advisors.

Speld Specialist Teachers/Tutors are required to inform Speld when they start and stop working with a student referred to them through us. They and must complete a Report Summary at the end of each Semester. This report must also be given to the parents.

Does Speld have a Specialist Teacher/Tutor for adults with reading, writing and math difficulties?

Yes, Speld has some Teachers trained and experienced in teaching adult's basic literacy and numeracy.

Why do I need to join Speld Qld to access the Specialist Teacher/Tutor Service?

Speld Qld ensures a quality teaching service that adheres to the ethos of the organisation is delivered to each student. The only way that this can be achieved is by both the teacher and the student being members of Speld Qld, and the program implemented is monitored by the Chief Executive Officer and Corporate Services Manager of Speld Qld.

Speld Qld receives many requests for Specialist Teachers and Tutors. Due to the number of enquiries and in order to continue to provide a quality service, this referral service is limited to members only.

As a financial Member, both student and Teacher/Tutor are covered by Public Liability Insurance and membership must be maintained over the course of the tutoring to keep this cover.

What if the Specialist Teacher/Tutor I contacted can't fit my child in this term?

This can happen as the teachers may forget to let us know that they can't fit more students in. We ask that you continue to search the Specialist Teacher register to continue your enquiries. If you are still not able to find a suitable Teacher, you may email tutor@speld.org.au to be placed on a waiting list. The waiting list can be accessed by all Speld Qld Specialist Teachers/Tutors who can request your contact details and contact you directly about tutoring your student.

What if I am not happy with the allocated Specialist Teacher / Tutor I am referred to?

In some cases there may be a mismatch between a child and a Specialist Teacher/Tutor. We encourage you to get back to us at any time if you feel this has happened in your case. We are very keen to make sure that everyone is happy with the professional service provided by Speld Qld. Please contact the Chief Executive Officer at executive@speld.org.au to ensure this situation is remediated immediately.

How does online teaching work?

Online tuition is offered via live video web conferencing and students access the expertise of their Speld Specialist Teacher/Tutor in a private, one-to-one lesson. Teachers who deliver lessons in this way typically specialise in this model of instruction and do so in multisensory and dynamic ways that achieve comparable results in literacy and numeracy. Online tuition is not just an alternative to face-to-face tuition for rural and regional families, but a viable first choice for many busy working families. Many online instructors record the lessons so that students and parents can watch or revise the lesson to consolidate new skills.

Home requirements for online teaching:

- Laptop or desktop computer with good quality internet access
- Camera installed on computer
- Student to be familiar with the keyboard
- A whiteboard, preferably mounted to the wall or free standing easel
- Dark coloured whiteboard markers and eraser
- It is recommended that parents are available to support students during online tuition sessions should technical difficulties arise.
- Quiet learning environment free from distractions.