



**SPELD NSW**  
**Teachers Certificate Course**

**2021 Certificate Course  
 for Teachers of Students  
 with Specific Learning Difficulties**

This specially tailored SPELD NSW course has been designed for learning support and mainstream classroom teachers of students who have specific learning difficulties who wish to update and enhance their skills and knowledge and for teachers wishing to become a SPELD NSW tutor. The course provides up-to-date, research-based information concerning the acquisition of literacy and numeracy skills and supporting students with specific learning difficulties.

**The 2021 Teachers' Certificate Course will be held in two modes:  
 Webinar + Online AND Face-to-Face + Online**

**Our New Course Structure**

We are excited to offer the course in 2 formats to best meet the needs of teachers in NSW. In the wake of COVID-19, we think it is important to provide teachers with choice in how they engage in their professional learning and we also want to provide rural and remote teachers the opportunity to engage in this high quality Professional Learning course. With online learning experience and live sessions for both options we provide you highly engaging, deep learning with the flexibility to work around your busy schedules.

The course includes pre-recorded lectures, videos, readings, quizzes and live online/face to face workshops, reflection tasks. Online discussion forums will be provided with opportunities to collaborate and interact with peers and the SPELD NSW course convenors.

<p><b>Fully Online (LIVE Webinar)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online independent learning: 5 hours</li> <li>• Live Webinar: 3 hours</li> <li>• Application and Reflection: 2 hours</li> </ul>	<p><b>Blended Learning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online independent learning: 3 hours</li> <li>• Face-to-Face Weekend Workshop: 5 hours</li> <li>• Application and Reflection: 2 hours</li> </ul>
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## Which course should I choose?

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Both courses are identical in terms of content but differ in delivery. Both courses have online, independent learning components, practical application with your students and reflection. The key difference is the delivery of the LIVE session.

<p>Choose the WEBINAR version if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- like to learn independently</li> <li>- are happy to engage in online forums and discussions.</li> <li>- can commit to 3-hour webinars on a Saturday morning for the course dates (see below)</li> <li>- live remotely or unable to attend face-to-face workshops</li> </ul>	<p>Choose the BELDNEED version if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- can commit to full day workshops on the course dates (see below)</li> <li>- are looking for a balance of independent learning and face to face collaboration</li> <li>- are able to physically attend the SPELD NSW office in Parramatta for the live workshop</li> <li>- are willing to engage in some online discussions</li> </ul>
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## Target Audience

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The Teachers' Certificate Course is aimed at teachers and tutors of students who have specific learning difficulties who wish to update and enhance their skills and knowledge. The course is appropriate for:

- K-6 primary school teachers
- Learning Support teachers
- Secondary School literacy and support teachers
- Tutors

## Course Outcomes

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The purpose of this course is to provide the skills and knowledge to:

1. Understand how students learn and how learning difficulties can impact a student's learning
2. Evaluate the research on literacy and numeracy acquisition
3. Develop specific programs to meet the needs of students with learning difficulties in the areas of vocabulary, reading, spelling, fluency, comprehension, written expression and numeracy
4. Monitor and assess student learning

## Course Content

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The Teachers' Certificate Course is a highly regarded Professional Learning program aimed at developing teacher understanding of Specific Learning Difficulties and effective, evidence-based instruction in Literacy and Numeracy. The focus of the course is more heavily focused on language and literacy development, with individual models on Oral Language and Phonemic Awareness, Reading & Phonics, Spelling, Handwriting and Morphology, Writing ideation & grammar. One module is dedicated to understanding core numeracy skills and Specific Learning Difficulties in Mathematics.

The first module in the course focuses on the science of how we learn, understanding learning difficulties and how to implement diagnostic assessments. This sets an important foundation for learning throughout the subsequent modules, where you will be asked to apply your learning in real-world contexts- either in your classroom or with students you tutor.

During both online and the blended models have compulsory live attendance sessions for each module. These are important sessions for collaboration with fellow students, understanding how to implement theory into practice and clarifying content. Using whiteboarding tools and break-out rooms on Zoom or small group/partner work in the Face-to-Face sessions, you will be actively engaged in constructing your knowledge and understanding in each module.

Some modules will have expert guest speakers in the live sessions!

At the end of the course you will have a sound understanding of the research that supports effective instruction. You will have developed an understanding of meta-language, key skills and strategies to approaching instruction and intervention for students that have difficulties with literacy and numeracy.

## Course Structure

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The Teachers' Certificate Course is divided into six modules.

Module One:	How Students Learn and Have Difficulties with Learning, Assessments of and for learning	Module Four:	Spelling, Morphology & Handwriting
Module Two:	Phonology, Phonemic awareness, Oral Language and Language Disorders	Module Five:	Writing, Grammar & Ideation
Module Three:	Reading Science, phonics, learning irregular word & using decodable texts	Module Six:	Numeracy and Dyscalculia

## Module Structure

Online Learning	To launch each module, you will be provided with a range of learning materials. This will be essential content that must be completed prior to attending the first LIVE workshop. The independent learning is designed to allow you to gain insight from research, be introduced to key metalanguage and allow you to set your own learning goals for each module. This part of the learning journey is essential for you to get the most out of the live workshops
Live Webinar or Face to Face Workshop	The live workshop extends your understanding from the independent learning materials. The aim is to develop your depth of knowledge and understanding through critical thinking activities and exploring the practical applications and implications of the core ideas of each module. You will participate actively, with the use of whiteboard collaborations and break-out rooms in the webinar and small group activities and discussions in the face to face workshop.
Practical Application Task	At the conclusion of the live workshop, you will be set a task to be completed in your own learning context. It will be a short, targeted task that allows you to put theoretical ideas into practice in a real-world context. There may be optional tasks available to those looking for way to extend their knowledge and practice. This task serves as the content for reflection for the final part of each module. Task include administering assessments, observing reading, assessing work samples and developing lessons plans.
Reflection & Goal setting	The final part of each model is a reflection task. You will be asked to reflect on your learning from the theoretical and practical components of the module and set goals for future practice. This will be an important opportunity to gain feedback and support and collaborate with other professionals on how to further your own practice.

## Study Commitment

Each module is 10 hours of study commitment over 2 school terms. That is, 60 hours in total.

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## How will I be supported during this course?

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The team at SPELD NSW want you to succeed, so we are here with you for the learning journey! We will be available on the learning platform to answer questions and support online discussions. If you are experiencing difficulties in achieving the outcomes and assessments of the course, we are available to provide support with those too.

## 2021 Course Dates

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### Fully Online: Term 2 and 3

Module 1	Module 2	Module 3	Module 4	Module 5	Module 6
18 <sup>th</sup> April- 9 <sup>th</sup> May	9 <sup>th</sup> May- 30 <sup>th</sup> May	30 <sup>th</sup> May – 27 <sup>th</sup> June	11 <sup>th</sup> July – 1 <sup>st</sup> August	1 <sup>st</sup> August- 22 <sup>nd</sup> August	22 <sup>nd</sup> August- 12 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Live Webinar: <b>1<sup>st</sup> May</b> , 9am-12.30pm	Live Webinar: <b>22<sup>nd</sup> May</b> , 9am-12.30pm	Live Webinar: <b>12<sup>th</sup> June</b> , 9am-12.30pm	Live Webinar: <b>24<sup>th</sup> July</b> , 9am-12.30pm	Live Webinar: <b>14<sup>th</sup> August</b> , 9am-12.30pm	Live Webinar: <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sept</b> , 9am-12.30pm

### Blended Learning: Term 3 and 4

Module 1	Module 2	Module 3	Module 4	Module 5	Module 6
11 <sup>th</sup> July- 1 <sup>st</sup> August	1 <sup>st</sup> August – 22 <sup>nd</sup> August	22 <sup>nd</sup> August- 12 <sup>th</sup> Sept	3 <sup>rd</sup> October- 24 <sup>th</sup> October	24 <sup>th</sup> October- 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov	14 <sup>th</sup> Nov- 5 <sup>th</sup> December
Face to Face Workshop: <b>17<sup>th</sup> July</b> , 9am-3pm	Face to Face Workshop: <b>7<sup>th</sup> August</b> , 9am-3pm	Face to Face Workshop: <b>28<sup>th</sup> August</b> , 9am-3pm	Face to Face Workshop: <b>9<sup>th</sup> October</b> , 9am-3pm	Face to Face Workshop: <b>30<sup>th</sup> October</b> , 9am-3pm	Face to Face Workshop: <b>20<sup>th</sup> Nov</b> , 9am-3pm

## Cost

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The cost of the Teachers' Certificate course is \$2,250 (incl. GST). The course cost includes Individual SPELD NSW membership worth \$70.

## Application, Payment and Refund Policy

Places to the Teachers' Certificate Course are allocated based on applications received from interested teachers and tutors.

Once your application has been accepted, you will be sent a confirmation and be asked to pay a \$500 deposit within 4 weeks to confirm your position in the Teachers' Certificate Course.

Full payment of the course fees must be received 4 weeks before the commencement of the course. (Payment plans are available on request.)

The deposit is fully refundable until 4 weeks before the commencement of the course. After that date, 50% of the deposit is refundable. From two weeks before the commencement of the Course, no refunds are available unless another student is identified to take your place.

## TESTIMONIALS

"Over many years I've completed many hours of Professional Development and I can without hesitation say that the recent SPELD NSW course I completed was by the far the best I've ever attended. I looked forward to each weekend and always came away with new ideas, resources, contacts and an excitement to implement change. The speakers were all highly experienced and credentialed, always providing practical and essential training to further successful intervention.

It was great to form friendships with other teachers from various sectors all whom shared a passion to assist the struggling student. The assignments tasks were relevant and enabled clarification of learning needs and additionally, in depth evaluation of teaching methodologies and process. It is my pleasure to highly recommend this course." - **Lyn, 2014 Graduate, Trinity Anglican College, Albury/Wodonga**

"Certificate Course for Teachers of Children with Specific Learning Difficulties was without doubt the most practical and inspiring professional development program I have undertaken. Experts in their various fields shared the latest research and best practice models to enhance the learning outcomes of our students. Meeting each weekend with a group of highly motivated people was also a plus. Everyone benefited from each other's skills and experiences. I would highly recommend this course for new and 'old' teachers alike". - **Nadine, 2015 Graduate, Learning Support Teacher from Danebank Anglican School for Girls**

"Over the years I have learnt many techniques, from Professional Development and wonderful mentoring Learning Support Teachers and Classroom teachers, but now from doing this course the DIFFERENCE IS NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY AND HOW." - **Pip, Teachers' Aide, 2015 Graduate from Knox Grammar.**

"I strongly recommend this course to all teachers at all levels of experience. Provided me with the skills to confidently make changes to my teaching methods in order to better meet the needs of my students." - **Clare, 2017 Graduate, Special Needs Teacher – St Therese Primary School**

“SPELD NSW’s Certificate Course for teachers with specific learning difficulties is beneficial for all teachers. So many elements of the course are not covered in pre-service teacher training and are vital to ensure teachers can equip our future learners with the skills to function successfully in the complex world.” - **Janine, 2018 Graduate** – *High School Teacher*

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