

Previous LDC Seminars

November 2016

Language-Friendly Classrooms: Supporting Primary and Secondary students with language and literacy difficulties

Presenter: Dr Julia Starling, Speech-Language Pathologist, Adjunct Lecturer, University of Sydney

Many students with language-based learning difficulties face challenges to their learning in language and literacy rich classrooms. Dr Julia Starling, a speech-language pathologist, will present a model of collaborative support where teachers, other professionals and parents can work together to support children and adolescents with learning difficulties. A wealth of practical strategies will be presented, based on Julia's extensive experience in this field.

August 2016

FIVE from FIVE: Effective reading instruction in every classroom, every day

Presenter: Dr Jennifer Buckingham, Senior Research Fellow and Director of the FIVE from FIVE project

Hundreds of thousands of children are not reaching a level of achievement in reading that is considered to be the minimum international standard. Reading specialists argue that this is because many children are not receiving the most effective instruction as described by scientific research. The FIVE from FIVE project was developed to bridge the gap between research and practice in reading instruction by providing up-to-date evidence, information and resources for parents, teachers, principals, health and education professionals, and policymakers.

June 2016

Maths and Learning Difficulties

Presenter: Dr Samantha Horner, Therapy and Education Manager, Learning Links

Many children with learning difficulties find mathematics just as challenging as reading and other literacy skills. Number skills, particularly the four operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, need to be mastered and stored in memory before new skills can be added from the curriculum. The language of mathematics is also unique, at times quite complex, and children often need help to decode this and truly understand what they are being asked to do. In this seminar you will collect new strategies and resources to support the development of number and problem solving skills for primary and high school students struggling in mathematics.

April 2016

Behaviour and Learning

Presenter: Vivienne Branch, Principal – Positive Behaviour for Learning

Vivienne Branch is the leader of the Macquarie Park Educational Services Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) Team. In this seminar she will give an overview about PBL, an evidence-based whole school approach implemented in schools across NSW to improve learning outcomes for all students, including those with learning difficulties. Vivienne will then discuss a range of behaviour management strategies and positive behaviour supports, that can be adopted by parents and teachers from all school systems. As always there will be time allotted for questions and discussion.

November 2015

Occupational Therapy: It's not just about pencil grip!

Presenter: Louise Yarham, Occupational Therapist

Louise has been a paediatric Occupational Therapist for over 20 years working in a private practice capacity, with students from Preschool – Year 12. She has worked in many schools with individual students and within the classroom. Since 2012 she has also been working with the Catholic Education Office to implement strategies within the classroom to up skill teachers to better support students with additional learning needs. She also provides Professional Development for teachers and Parent Education.

Louise has a passion for assisting students within the classroom environment using a collaborative approach with teachers and parents. Research demonstrates that Early Intervention for children who may be experiencing difficulties at school can enhance their potential and attitude to their educational experience.

The LDC seminar will be focused on evidence based practice and practical ideas and strategies which a parent/ teacher/ professional will be able to use when interacting with their student/ child. The session will be interactive and there will be time for questions.

September 2015

The Learning and Support Team Forum

Teresa Kovacs, Betty Kiebosch, Catherine Dunn, Jenny Pride

The Learning and Support Team in each school assists classroom teachers to address the educational needs of students with a disability, learning difficulty or behaviour disorder. Parents or caregivers have a vital role to play in the work of the Learning and Support Team through discussing and planning for their child's needs. From DEC website <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/our-services/schools/disability-services>
In all schools (state, catholic, independent) the Learning and Support Team is just one of the many situations where a group of people come together to make decisions that impact upon the success of our students. The Learning and Support Team policies and decisions impact upon other situations where decisions are made re the learning programs for individual students. Often the Team determines the allocation of resources and school priorities.

June 2015

Behaviour Management Strategies

Presenter: Andrew Greenfield, Child and Educational Psychologist

In this seminar Andrew will discuss specific, practical and common sense strategies to assist parents and teachers with behaviour management. These strategies will be useful for managing every day struggles for parents of children and teenagers with behavioural issues. Andrew will also present classroom strategies to assist teachers who have students with behaviour problems associated with learning and developmental issues such as intellectual disability, ASD and ADHD. Andrew enjoys answering questions from parents and teachers and will endeavour to make the seminar as interactive as possible.

March 2015

Working Memory

Presenter: Mimma Mason, Cognitive Scientist, Cogmed Manager, Pearson

Humans have this amazing capacity which allows us to represent ideas in mind, hold information there and do something with it. It is the basis of our ability to plan, to carry out complex tasks, to learn. While this capacity is limited for all of us, low working memory capacity is associated with a wide range of developmental disorders of learning including ADHD, Dyslexia, Specific Language Impairment, and reading and mathematical difficulties.

In this presentation we will take a closer look at what working memory is and how working memory

constraints specifically affect learning and behaviour.

The discussion will include practical strategies for managing poor working memory at home and at school. It will also include a review of the research on the plasticity of working memory which suggests that working memory capacity can be strengthened, providing sustained benefits to individuals with learning difficulties.

November 2014

Gifted with LD

Presenter: Carol Barnes, National Coordinator of GLD Australia

Because the term 'learning disability' (LD) is sometimes erroneously used as a euphemism for 'low IQ' or 'intellectually impaired', some assume that gifted children do not have learning disabilities and that LD children could not possibly be gifted. This is not the case. In fact, children with LD, ADHD, ASD or other disabilities may also be academically gifted, sometimes exceptionally so. This interactive practical session will help parents and teachers identify some of the early warning signs that a child who has been identified with developmental differences is also a gifted child who is hiding in plain sight. We'll also consider how parents can most effectively advocate for such children, and how parents and teachers can work collaboratively to provide classroom support and to apply for and implement disability adjustments for in-school activities and for tests and exams.

September 2014

Technology and Learning Difficulties

Presenter: Tim Connell, Managing Director of Quantum: Reading, Learning, Vision. Director of the Centre for Disability Studies, University of Sydney

Today we are faced with a rapidly increasing range of assistive technology (AT) options that assist children and adolescents who have learning difficulties. Matching the right tools with each individual student is essential to ensuring the best opportunities and outcomes. However, the choice for parents and teachers can often be bewildering, and this is where a focus on the role of assessment is crucial. The assessment of technology needs must include the student, the tasks they need to achieve as well as the tools themselves, all within the context of their learning environment. This session will provide a broad outline of assessment strategies and look at some examples of AT options in detail.

June 2014

Autism, Communication and Literacy

Presenter: Rebecca Sutherland, Senior Speech Pathologist, Child Development Unit, Children's Hospital at Westmead

This talk will provide parents, teachers and health professionals with a review of autism and information about the new diagnostic criteria for autism spectrum disorder and social communication disorder. There will be a particular focus on the communication characteristics of autism and how these impact on literacy, as well as an overview of practical home and classroom based strategies.

April 2014

Anxiety and Learning Difficulties: Strategies and Support

Presenter: Maria Ivanka Milic, Clinical Psychologist

Anxiety Disorders are the most prevalent mental health disorder in children, with approximately 1 in 10 children experiencing a level of anxiety that compromises their ability to function at school, socially and with building independence. Research suggests a higher prevalence of anxiety in children with learning difficulties is in part related to the extra life challenges they face. This workshop aims to increase your understanding of anxiety disorders in children and adolescents and to provide you with a repertoire of

cognitive and behavioural strategies you can use to support them in managing their anxiety at home and in school.

November 2013

Sleep Deprivation in Children & Teenagers: How parents and teachers can recognize it and what they can do to help

Presenter: Dr Chris Seton, Paediatric and Adolescent Sleep Physician

During this talk Chris will describe how our world has become sleep deprived and how this has affected young people. We now live in an electronic world where our needs are at our fingertips 24 hours per day. This causes sleep to be “de-prioritised” in our busy lives. Chris will explain the specific causes of this in young people, how parents and teachers can recognise it, & what can be done to improve it. He will also detail the cognitive, psychological and other effects of sleep deprivation in relation to learning difficulties and other conditions such as ADHD and the impact it can have at home and school.

September 2013

Learning Difficulties: The Role of the Paediatrician

Presenter: Dr Patrick Concannon Consultant Developmental Paediatrician

Dr Concannon will be talking from his perspective as a Consultant Developmental Paediatrician. He will discuss his role in the assessment, diagnosis, treatment and management in the home and classroom of Specific Learning Difficulties and other developmental disorders, such as ADHD and Autism Spectrum Disorders.

May 2013

Understanding IQ & Educational Assessments

Presenter: Andrew Greenfield, Child and Educational Psychologist

When it comes to IQ and educational assessments (often referred to as psychometric assessments) there is a lot of misunderstanding about how these tools can be used and what information can be obtained from them. In this seminar, Andrew will try to answer some commonly asked questions about these tests and discuss how these assessment tools can be useful for both parents and teachers when investigating issues such as ADHD, Giftedness, Learning Difficulties, Nonverbal Learning Difficulties and other conditions. Andrew will discuss in detail what is involved in a psychometric assessment, what information should be gathered from them and how they should be interpreted by parents, teachers, school counsellors and other allied health professionals. With the new DSM-5 coming out in May 2013, Andrew will discuss the possible implications in relation to different diagnoses.

March 2013

School Support for Students with Learning Difficulties: An Interactive Forum

Presenters: Melissa Clements (DEC, Director of Disability Learning and Support), Geraldine Gray (CEC, State Coordinator for Catholic Education Commission NSW), Margaret McKay (Association of Independent Schools)

This forum will give system representatives a chance to explain how their systems are now providing for students who need educational adjustments due to learning difficulties.

The first half of this forum will provide parents and teachers the opportunity to hear how the Government, Catholic and Independent Education systems are changing their procedures.

In the second half, our forum will allow for questions about how these new procedures are applied, especially with reference to the ‘Every Student, Every School’ policy (newly adopted for 2013 statewide in government schools).

October 2012

Learning Difficulties & ADHD: The overlaps and what we should do

Presenter: Dr Paul Hutchins, AM, Senior Staff Specialist, Child Development Unit, The Children's Hospital, Westmead.

Problems in efficiency of thinking, learning, performance and behavior are common. Collaborative supports at home and in the classroom must address the individual's relative language, motor and organizational abilities. Success is based on shared information, adjusting the load for achievement, evidence-based strategies, rational use of medication and avoiding misconceptions.

September 2012

Autism Spectrum Disorder

The Latest in Medical Management of ASD

Presenter: Dr Natalie Silove, Head of Child Development Unit, The Children's Hospital, Westmead

Dr Natalie Silove's presentation will cover the current understanding of the causes of ASD and its impact on the developing brain. The role of the paediatrician as part of the multidisciplinary team will be discussed in regard to investigations and management. Challenges and implications of aspects of genetic testing and the role of medication in ASD will be discussed

The Role of Psychologists in Assessing and Diagnosing ASD and in Supporting Parents/Teachers

Presenter: Neil Nicoll, Psychologist

Neil Nicoll's presentation will cover the different kinds of psychologists' involvement in assessment and diagnosis of ASD; Clearing-House information about ASD; behavioural support for families and schools; counseling and therapeutic interventions for children with ASD; counseling and support for families of children with ASD; research into ASD and community education.

June 2012

Building Resilience in Children & Adolescents with Learning Difficulties

Presenter: Dr Toni Noble, Adjunct Professor, Educational Leadership (ACU)

Life is a bumpy journey and everyone experiences setbacks and makes mistakes. Children with learning difficulties face many challenges, not only in learning but also in relationships; and some face more major challenges like bullying, family breakdowns or family loss. Everyone needs to learn the skills of resilience to 'bounce back'. This presentation draws on the new field of positive psychology to outline practical strategies to enhance child confidence and resilience. The skills that can be taught to children include helpful and optimistic thinking, amplifying positive emotions and managing strong negative emotions, making and keeping friends, identifying and maximizing their strengths, and developing a sense of meaning and purpose.

March 2012

Challenging Behaviours in Years 5 – 10: Strategies for School & Home

Presenter: Ian Luscombe, Principal Redbank School

This fun, entertaining, inspiring and above all practical seminar will provide teachers and parents with strategies for managing the myriad of difficult behaviours that are typically encountered in schools and at home.

October 2011

The Middle Years: Developmental Challenges for young people, their parents and teachers

Presenter: Dr David Bennett, Head, NSW Centre for the Advancement of Adolescent Health

Adolescence is a distinct, significant and fascinating time in the life cycle. The profound and rapid changes occurring during the period referred to as "The Middle Years" (approximately 9 – 14 years) have the potential for huge impact on both current and future wellbeing. The presentation reviews a little of what we know about puberty and social & emotional development as well as how, informed by new insights from neuroscience about the evolving adolescent brain, we can better understand the many challenges involved, for young people, their parents and teachers.

September 2011

Strategies to help students with ADHD/Learning Difficulties to remember their schoolwork

Presenter: Rowena Harding Smith, Educational Consultant

Children with Learning Difficulties have problems remembering; one day they know their spelling words and the next day they have forgotten them all. They study for exams and learn the work, but when they sit for the exam it is as if they have never studied – their mind goes blank. Students with ADHD have problems with organization; they frequently forget to do their homework and when they actually do an assignment they forget to take it to school. Yet these children can have an amazing memory for other things. Why does this happen? Come and learn how to teach our LD and ADHD students to remember their schoolwork.

June 2011

Teaching & Parenting Skills to Stay Sane!

Presenter: Dr Sandra Heriot, Clinical Psychologist & Author

Teaching and Parenting both involve the process of promoting and supporting the physical, emotional, social and cognitive development of a child from infancy to adulthood. Teaching and raising children can be wonderful experiences, but they can also be filled with many ups and downs. It is critical to identify and look after the needs of teachers and parents and support them in their essential roles. This presentation will provide strategies to promote mental health in children and adolescents both at school and at home. It will also focus on skills that are useful for teachers and parents of children with learning disabilities.

March 2011

Vocabulary is Vital

Presenters: Julia Starling, Speech-Language Pathologist & Annette Guterres, Special Education Teacher

Children and adolescents with language, learning and attention difficulties often have poorly developed vocabulary skills, which will be having an often significant impact on their academic, social and personal development. Annette Guterres is a highly experienced special education teacher, and former president of the Professional Association for Learning Support. Julia Starling is a similarly experienced speech-language pathologist with a special interest in language-based learning difficulties. In this seminar, for parents, teachers and other interested professionals, Annette and Julia will explore the current research on vocabulary instruction, and will present a range of highly practical and useful vocabulary-enriching strategies for use in the classroom and at home.

November 2010

ADHD Assessment, differential diagnosis, co-morbidities and treatments

Presenter: Dr Daryl Efron, Developmental-Behavioural Paediatrician Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne

The individual differences model is fundamental to understanding children who learn and behave differently. In this presentation, Dr Efron will discuss the current conceptualisation of ADHD and related disorders, and clinical evaluation procedures. Interventions will be discussed, emphasising the goal of supporting and promoting the child's positive developmental trajectory. The key principle of long-term collaboration between children, parents, schools and health professionals will be highlighted.

September 2010

Reading Difficulties: Research & Treatment

Presenter: Dr Genevieve McArthur, Australian Research Fellow from the Macquarie Centre for Cognitive Science (Macquarie University)

In her presentation, she will discuss the definition of developmental dyslexia (i.e. reading difficulty) and how it can be diagnosed. She will discuss theories about what causes developmental dyslexia, outline commercial treatments that have been triggered by these theories, and the scientific evidence behind these treatments. Additionally, she will provide a step-by-step guide that will help teachers, parents and educational professionals assess the existing evidence for new treatments for developmental dyslexia. This guide will help us to make more informed decisions about the best forms of treatment for children with developmental dyslexia.

May 2010

Bullying

Presenter: Ian Wallace

Ian Wallace is a Consultant Psychologist, with a wealth of experience working with families, children and adolescents. In this seminar Ian will address the issue of bullying, and provide practical, "no-nonsense" ideas about how to bully proof and create resilience and responsibility in children and adolescents. The seminar will be of relevance to parents as well as all professionals working with young people. Ian conducts seminars around Australia for television, radio, universities, professionals, schools and support groups. He is the Director and Consultant Psychologist with Forestway Psychology Centre in Sydney.

March 2010

Anxiety & Depression in Children & Adolescents with Learning Difficulties

Presenter: Dr Ann Wignall

Dr Ann Wignall is a Clinical Psychologist and Director for Child & Adolescent Mental Health for North Shore and Ryde. Dr Wignall founded the Child and Adolescent Anxiety Clinic at Royal North Shore Hospital and was also co-developer/author of the Cool Kids Anxiety treatment program with Ron Rapee, "Treating Anxious Children and Adolescents" (a therapists book) and "Helping your Anxious Child" (a parents guide). Dr Wignall's presentation will discuss anxiety and depression in children and adolescents, especially those with learning difficulties. Why are LD children and adolescents at such risk of anxiety and depression and what can parents, teachers and professionals do?

November 2009

Management of Oppositional Behaviours: in the classroom and at home

Presenter: Ian Luscombe, Principal Redbank School

Strategies for parents and teachers on the environmental factors that influence behaviour. "Why do they muck up" and what you can do to prevent this behaviour.

September 2009

Learning and Attentional Disorders: implications of neuroplasticity

International Presenter: Professor Rosemary Tannock

Strategies to reduce the load on the working memory and assist students to learn efficiently and reduce problematic behaviours in the classroom.

May 2009

An Approach to the Complementary and Alternative Interventions in ASD

Presenter: Dr Natalie Silove, Developmental Paediatrician & Head of the Child Development Unit at The Children's Hospital Westmead.

February 2009

Practical Management Strategies for School Students with AD/HD

Presenter: Virginia Hastings, Special Education Teacher

This seminar provided both parents and teachers with an overview of AD/HD and strategies that can be adopted both in the home and at school.

November 2008

Special Examination Provisions for HSC and School Certificate

Presenters: Board of Studies Staff

Discussion and information about who can apply for these provisions, what is required when making an application and the types of provisions that are provided to students.

September 2008

Small Steps Anxiety Awareness

Presenter: Emma Pinn, Health Education Officer, Mental Health Association

What is and what causes anxiety? What strategies parents and teachers can use? What other options of treatment are available?

March 2008

Going to the Heart of Autism: RDI (Relationship Development Intervention®)

Presenters: Elizabeth Ponce, Irena Woodward, Janice Marshall

A program to develop dynamic intelligence – opening the door to:

- reciprocal communication
- genuine friendships
- school and workplace success
- confident, independent living

November 2007

“To Help Me, You Need To Understand Me”

Presenters: Cathy and Mick Madden

Jessica is 14 years of age and has autism. Her parents, Cathy and Mick Madden will talk about Jessica's journey.

August 2007

The link between Inattention and Learning Disorders

International Presenter: Professor Rosemary Tannock

Her research investigates the causes and treatment of AD/HD with a specific focus on the cognitive and academic difficulties and overlap with learning difficulties. Professor Tannock and her colleagues have developed a multi-media set of resources on AD/HD for teachers for use in Professional Development.

March 2007

“Support for Children With Learning and Attentional Problems”: An International Perspective

Presenter: Jude Foster, LDC President

For more information call LDC on 02 9806 9960