

Natalie Wallace of New Plymouth did the SPELD NZ Assessor training in 2018, spurred on by her own son's learning challenges.



Seeing my child's journey through the education system made me really want to make a difference for children struggling to achieve their potential at school. After he was assessed, my world opened up to the world of specific learning difficulties. With my background in psychology, health and education I was keen to learn more about this area. There appeared to be a real lack of awareness and understanding of dyslexia at schools and in the community.

The assessor training was a hugely interesting and challenging. The tutors and mentors are the backbone of the training course and always very resourceful and helpful. There is always so much more to learn and the ongoing support and discussions with peers is invaluable.

I love working as an assessor, but it is super busy! Balancing testing time with report writing can be challenging as demand is high. It is great to work for myself and have flexibility.

Providing an individualised and personal report for a student in order to direct them towards their learning potential is hugely rewarding. I really enjoy the analysis aspect of the assessing and report writing as each student presents so differently. It is fascinating to break results down in order to produce an overall picture for the student/family/teacher/tutor. I believe early identification of specific learning disabilities is extremely important in order to support a child's journey, not only through the current education system but throughout their adult life.



By SPELD NZ Assessor, Natalie Wallace