



WELCOME TO SPELD NZ



We're a not-for-profit organisation with more than 50 years of experience helping children and adults with dyslexia and other specific learning disabilities. Each year we assist thousands of children and adults throughout New Zealand with assessment, tuition and support. For those who struggle with literacy, our teachers use evidence-based programmes grounded in phonemic and phonological awareness, reflecting the [Science of Reading](#). **Compelling evidence now shows that learning outcomes can be vastly improved with our specialised intervention.**

What services does SPELD NZ offer?

- [Detailed diagnostic assessments](#) from a SPELD NZ-trained Assessor, registered with the New Zealand Council for Educational Research;
- [One-on-one individualised tuition](#) for children and adults with a qualified teacher who has specialised SPELD NZ training;
- [Family support](#) - e.g. search "SPELD New Zealand" to check out our [Facebook](#) page for information, inspiration and encouragement. We also have our own [YouTube](#) channel and provide [free webinars](#) for our members;
- Specialised library resources including books, games, puzzles and DVDs available on loan;
- [Information on specific learning disabilities](#) (SLD) and related topics;
- The SPELD NZ [Record](#) magazine several times a year;
- [Courses](#) for family, whanau, teachers, teacher aides, Learning Support Coordinators and other interested professionals;
- [Training for Assessors](#).

What does it cost to join SPELD NZ?

We receive no government funding. We rely on memberships, donations and fundraising to maintain our services to the community. Our membership fees (whether individual or for the family) are:

With community services card in name of parent /caregiver	Without community services card
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$50 for first year• \$50 each following year to renew	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$100 for the first year• \$100 each following year to renew, discounted to \$85 for prompt payment

NB: All membership fees include GST.

Please note you must be a financial member of SPELD NZ to receive any SPELD NZ service – either assessment or tuition.

Can I get help with the cost of assessment and tuition?



We may be able to provide [financial assistance](#) for assessments and tuition if the parent/caregiver (or adult seeking help) has a current Community Services Card or can provide evidence of low income or hardship. Please call us to talk about financial assistance eligibility. Please note this is only available to SPELD NZ members.

How do I enrol?

Please complete and return [the enrolment forms](#) with your payment. Please also send us a copy of your Community Services Card (if you have one).

Once enrolled, how do I get an assessment?

Once you've joined SPELD NZ, we'll refer you to one of our SPELD NZ trained Assessors who'll complete a Diagnostic Assessment of Cognitive and Educational Abilities and write a full report including recommendations for future learning. Please note, in some regions there may be a wait list for our Assessors.

What if I/my child already has an assessment?

Our teachers can work with those already assessed using a WAIS, WISC (Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Adults or Children) and a WIAT III, or a Woodcock-Johnson III or IV. The diagnosis should include a specific learning disability such as dyslexia, dysgraphia or dyscalculia. If that is the case, please complete and sign the [Membership Application form](#), send a copy through to the Regional Officer and pay the membership fee. You will then be added to the tuition wait list.

NB: An updated/subsequent assessment is usually required after four years.

What does a SPELD NZ assessment diagnose?



The assessment covers cognitive assessment and educational achievement testing. It will indicate intellectual and educational strengths and weaknesses and give a detailed overview of you/your child's mode of learning. The assessment evaluates the skills involved in effective learning such as:

- Language and auditory skills
- Visual skills and spatial awareness
- Speed of processing
- Short and long term memory
- Reading, spelling and basic mathematics
- Attention, concentration and academic fluency

The report is written for both parents/yourself and professionals so includes some technical language. However, a clear summary is included, along with recommendations for family/yourself and your school/education provider or employer. The Assessor is happy to answer any questions.

The assessment report will help educational professionals working with you/your child to target the areas of weakness. It may also help you/your child access Special Assessment Conditions for exams at secondary and tertiary level.

While the assessment does not diagnose behavioural conditions such as ADHD or ADD or Autistic Spectrum Disorders, our Assessors may note indications of these.

How old should you be to have an assessment?

The Woodcock-Johnson assessment is used to test for dyslexia and other specific learning disabilities in preschoolers to those in their 90s. Research shows many benefits of early identification and intervention but parents/caregivers of children aged under 7 to 8-years-old should note that a **definitive** diagnosis of dyslexia and other specific learning disabilities is difficult to make for this age group. However, the assessment can identify where difficulties are **likely** and the Assessor can make suggestions to help future learning. Individual lessons can still help a child under 7/8-years-old who is significantly behind in reading. A firm diagnosis can usually be made for children aged over 7/8.



How long does the assessment take?



The time taken for an assessment depends on the capabilities of the person being assessed, (e.g. their age, processing speed, attention span) and the purpose of the testing. The assessment may be split into two sessions. Your Assessor will discuss this with you.

Usually, the parent does not stay during the assessment. Please talk with the Assessor before the assessment if you feel that because of special circumstances, you should attend the assessment sessions.

The report should be available within three weeks of the assessment date. The report will be sent to the person who has paid for the assessment, unless other arrangements are made.

What does the assessment cost?

As SPELD NZ Assessors are independent contractors, the cost of a standard SLD assessment varies, however the usual range is \$650 to \$1,000 (plus GST if any). **This is a discounted rate for SPELD NZ members.** Please ask for a quotation if you want an assessment for dyscalculia, as rates may vary. You pay the fee directly to the Assessor. It includes assessment time, materials, the analysis of results, and the full report. If you have evidence of low income or other hardship, you may qualify for a subsidy from SPELD NZ. To check if you are eligible, please see the Financial Assistance application on our website [membership page](#) or contact us for clarification before the assessment.

What about assessments for Special Assessment Conditions for exams (SAC)?



Our assessments are recognised by NZQA for Special Assessment Conditions (SAC) for exams at secondary school level. They're also generally accepted by tertiary organisations. (Valid for up to 4 years.) Due to SAC requirements, extra testing may be needed and this could mean extra time and costs. The Assessor will discuss these with

you prior to the assessment taking place. It's important to note that the assessment report is only one part of the SAC application. The school is responsible for making SAC applications and NZQA makes the final decision. For more information on SAC, see [NZQA's website](#)

Are any tests needed before the assessment?

It's strongly recommended that vision and hearing tests are done prior to assessment so these issues can be ruled out as barriers to learning. Hearing and vision tests may be available free of charge for Community Services Card holders or some audiologists and opticians provide simple hearing and vision tests for free.



If the assessment is needed for SAC (Special Assessment Conditions) for exams, you should ask the Assessor what information the school should provide.

After the assessment, how do I get a SPELD NZ Teacher?



If the Assessor's report recommends one-on-one tuition, please contact your [regional SPELD NZ Office](#). We have a wide network of SPELD NZ Teachers and will try to refer you to one as close as possible to where you live. Usually lessons are one hour, once a week, during school terms. Teachers normally work from their homes or in some instances, tuition can take place at a child's school. Please note that due to

the high demand for SPELD NZ services, in some areas there are waiting lists for SPELD NZ Teachers.

Something to consider after the assessment: ***If you or your child is NOT diagnosed with a specific learning disability then it is unlikely that one-on-one tuition will be available.*** Our registered SPELD NZ Teachers are in enormous demand and their specialty is working with students formally diagnosed with dyslexia, dysgraphia and dyscalculia. (The students may have other challenges as well as these specific learning disabilities). However, the assessment should provide clear recommendations for home and for school, and if necessary, any gaps in your child's learning could be met with the help of a literacy or numeracy agency or group in your local community.

What do SPELD NZ lessons cost?

Depending on the SPELD NZ Teacher, tuition costs usually range from \$40-\$100 (plus GST if any and sometimes travel) per one hour lesson. **This is a discounted rate for SPELD NZ members.** Your SPELD NZ Teacher will discuss terms of payment with you.



Remember that with evidence of financial or other hardship, you may qualify for a subsidy from SPELD NZ. To find out if you are eligible, please see the Financial Assistance application form on our website or contact us for clarification.

What does SPELD NZ tuition involve?



All SPELD NZ Teachers are qualified classroom teachers who have passed our NZQA-approved Level 5 training. Based on the assessment findings, they develop an individualised, one-on-one, evidence-based teaching programme which uses a student's strengths to build up their weaknesses.

Research shows SPELD NZ's one-on-one personalised intervention greatly improves learning outcomes. The University of Auckland's Professor of Psychology, Karen Waldie, noted "vast improvements in thinking ability, cognitive fluency and processing speed". For more information on this research, please see our website <https://www.speld.org.nz/about-us/our-approach>

SPELD NZ CONTACT DETAILS

0800 773 536

<https://www.speld.org.nz>

OR email us via [the Contact page](#) of our website

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