



Draft programme SPELD NZ Conference 2025

Navigating Neurodiversity

Time	Saturday 12 April	Time	Sunday 13 April	Monday 14 April
8:15-9:00	Registration - one or two days	8:15-9:00	Registration – one day	
9:00-9:15	<p>Welcome/Karakia</p> <p>Opening Address: Speaker TBC</p>	9:00-9:15	<p>Writer & tour guide Phil Parker shares the terrors and triumphs of a lifetime with dyscalculia</p>	<p>Assessor Hui SPELD NZ Assessors 9am – 4.30pm Royal Oak</p>
9:15-10:30	<p>Dr Nathaniel Swain Syntax as the ‘phonics’ of writing: It’s as fundamental as that!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding common writing errors at the sentence level Looking at a progression of key sentence skills and how to remedy challenges in writing 	9:15-10:30	<p>Esther White A bold new look at dyscalculia, maths anxiety and learning differences: There IS a research-based solution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding maths as a language Transferring your current expertise in explicitly teaching the language of English to explicitly teaching the language of maths 	
10:30-11:00	Morning Tea	10:30-11:00	Morning Tea	
11:00-12:15	<p>Dr Jennifer Buckingham What is need-to-know and nice-to-know from the Science of Reading</p> <p>The body of research known as the Science of Reading is vast and it can be difficult to discern what is essential and what has less evidence to support it. This presentation will look at what teachers and allied professionals really need to know and do to ensure all students learn to read.</p>	11:00-12:15	<p>Dr Nathaniel Swain Mastering the paragraph to clarify thinking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple and effective paragraph structures for all students How to spot style and structure errors in writing samples Remedying challenges at the planning and revising phases 	

12:15-1:30	<p>Rhonda Filmer Build your 'toolkit' of skills for working with the Executive Function weaknesses of children with ADHD and ASD in the classroom.</p>	12:15-1:30	<p>Dr Jennifer Buckingham The reading comprehension conundrum While the reading wars seem to have (finally) been won by the overwhelming evidence for systematic and explicit phonics instruction in developing fluent word reading, there is ongoing discussion among researchers and educators about the best way to teach reading comprehension. In this presentation, Jennifer will explore the concepts of skills, strategies and knowledge building for reading comprehension instruction, in the context of recent research findings.</p>	
1:30-2:15	<p>Karakia Kai Lunch</p>	1:30-2:15	<p>Karakia Kai Lunch</p>	
2:15-3:30	<p>Rhonda Filmer The twice-exceptional student in the classroom</p> <p>How to identify, understand the complexities and accommodate their learning needs in your class programme.</p>	2:15-3:30	<p>Esther White A hands-on approach to demystifying dyscalculia and teaching students with learning differences</p> <p>A tactile experience of sequential, multi-sensory, mastery-based and student-paced approach to teaching maths as the simplest language in the world.</p>	
3:30-4:45	<p>Dr Nathaniel Swain What do I do after phonics? Advanced spelling instruction and morphology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking at importance of orthographic (in addition to phonics) knowledge • Common spelling errors at the orthographic and morphological levels • How to progress spelling to a more functionally effective level 	3:30-4:00	<p>Panel / Question Time Conference presenters Dr Nathaniel Swain Dr Jennifer Buckingham Esther White</p>	
4:45-5:15	<p>Networking opportunity</p>	4:00-4:30	<p>Farewell/Karakia and networking opportunity</p>	

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