

# SPELD SA e-newsletter

4th Edition January 2015

## 2015 at SPELD SA What's in Store?



### Welcome to Marty Azzopardi

Marty was appointed to the position of Assistant to the Director at SPELD starting in January. She has had a variety of teaching settings, including ESL teacher, Special Education teacher, Intensive English teacher and Junior Primary teacher for over 20 years. Most of her experiences have been in the Northern Territory having taught in remote and urban locations. Her previous appointment was at a local Catholic school where she taught Reception for 5 years.

Marty is enthusiastic about helping students with specific learning difficulties. She looks forward to learning about the SPELD SA community and sharing her knowledge. Marty will be at SPELD on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays and works as a SPELD SA Tutor after hours.

### Year of the SSO, ESO, LSO and childcare worker

This year SPELD SA has nominated 2015 as the year of the SSO. We will be providing a range of free and affordable workshops aimed at developing the skills of SSOs, as they work both one-on-one and in

small groups, with students with specific learning difficulties.

The first two workshops on offer are below. We are currently negotiating other workshops that will be announced later in the year.

#### What SPELD SA Does for SSOs

Presented by Sandy Russo and Marty Azzopardi (a free 2 hour session)

Held at SPELD SA in Kensington we will create a session for your student support staff that highlights:

- the free resources we create that have been created to help students with specific learning difficulties
- how to use these resources when helping students learn to read and write in one-on-one and small group situations
- practical tips and strategies you can use with any students that have specific learning difficulties
- a look at some free assistive technologies and everyday programs, how and when to use them

To book into 'What SPELD SA Does for SSOs (free session)' email [info@speld-sa.org.au](mailto:info@speld-sa.org.au) with the name of your school, phone number and a contact number and we can arrange a time for your staff to visit us.

We can come to you. At a discounted workshop price of \$100 per hr we can bring this workshop to schools that have a SPELD SA membership (\$150 hr non-member schools). A number of schools that have chosen this option invited SSOs from schools

nearby to help bring the costs down. Email [info@speld-sa.org.au](mailto:info@speld-sa.org.au) for details.

## Explicit teaching techniques for SSOs

Presented by Frances Scobie

2 hour session, \$20 per person, at the SPELD SA Centre

Some students in Years 3 to 7 need a refresher course in how to use phonics to read and spell. Take part in a group lesson that will demonstrate a sequence of teaching strategies and techniques designed to develop automatic decoding and spelling skills.

Term 1, week 10 Tuesday 31st March 10 am

Term 2, week 1 Wednesday 29th April 10 am

To book into this session download a workshop registration form from <http://www.speld-sa.org.au/regform.doc>

## SPELD SA website

SPELD SA is very excited to announce that we are developing a new website.

The new website is being designed to look cleaner and be easier to navigate. We expect that it will go live sometime in March.



If you have any ideas for the website or notice any links that are broken, please email us so that we

can make corrections in the new site before it goes live.

The new look website will still offer all the information and free resources that are currently published, with the scope to offer more. The SPELD SA website address will stay the same as [www.speld-sa.org.au](http://www.speld-sa.org.au)

## Workshops Term 1 [click here](#)

**Please check the website for more information.**

### Dyslexia and other learning disorders.

Introductory Seminar, presented by Sandy Russo. Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February, Time: 7 – 9pm at SPELD

**Getting started as a SPELD SA tutor** - Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February, 7 – 9 pm at SPELD. Presented by Frances Scobie.

**Planning strategies for students with memory difficulties.** Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 7 – 9 SPELD Presented by Sandy Russo

**Spelling - An X-ray View of Words:** Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 7- 9.30 pm at SPELD: presented by Jan Polkinghorne

**Software sampler session,** Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February, 1.30-3.30pm at SPELD: presented by Sandy Russo

**Teaching a child (4- 6 years old) to read and write:** Parent Session. Tuesday 3rd March, 10.00am - 11.30am at SPELD Presented by Frances Scobie

**Dyslexia- what it is and how to help.** Wednesday 4th March, 7.00 - 9.00pm at SPELD Information evening for parents Presented by Sandy Russo

**Differentiating the curriculum for upper primary and high school students: Reading tasks.**

Wednesday 11th March, 7.00 - 9.00pm at SPELD: Presented by Sandy Russo

# SPELD SA Free Resources

## Reception/Foundation phonic testing materials

Did you know that SPELD SA has shared the testing materials that were created to follow the progress of students in the Jolly Phonics study?

Last week a DEDC psychologist who had started preparing for the new 2015 school year by downloading these resources emailed us with the following comment: "The resources look amazing. Thank you for sharing them. They definitely build capacity of school staff." Developed for Reception/Foundation – Year 2, you may find these materials useful as you monitor your students' progress throughout the year.

They are free and easy to download.

[http://www.speld-sa.org.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=126&Itemid=209](http://www.speld-sa.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=126&Itemid=209)

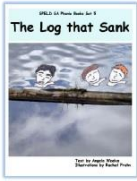
## Now Available: SPELD SA Phonic Books in a plain text format for older readers

Due to many requests SPELD SA has begun creating a plain text format of each of the free SPELD SA Phonic Books. These have been especially created for older struggling readers that you may be teaching or tutoring.

Set 1 through to set 6 books are complete. Each text has a worksheet that can be used to develop the students writing and spelling skills. Sets 7 and above will be completed over the next couple of weeks.

The new text versions for older readers are accessible by a text to speech reader but we encourage their use in small groups or 1:1, with an experienced reader guiding the students so that they learn how to blend sounds.

The books are accessible for free at [http://www.speld-sa.org.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=105&Itemid=182](http://www.speld-sa.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=105&Itemid=182)



**The Log that Sank** Set 5 (172 words)

Text written by Angela Weeks and illustrated by Rachel Frahn

Special words  
The, is, are, rope, have, paddle, as, go, of, into, he, middle, to, me, topple, his, grimaces

It is hot and Bim, Jed and Todd are at the dam. Jed and Bim paddle. Todd grabs the rope hanging from the gum tree. As he swings into the air, he spots a big log, floating in the middle of the dam. Todd lets go of the rope and drops into the dam. He has plans for the log. He will pretend it is a boat.

Todd drags himself onto the log. He is content on his boat. Jed sees Todd sitting on the log and swims across to him. Up he jumps onto the log. Todd grins. "Wait for me," cries Bim, as he swims to the log. Jed grimaces. Bim grabs the end of the log. He tries to lift himself onto the log. But the log sinks. Jed and Todd topple into the dam.

The kids swim to the bank. Todd reflects on his 'boat' as he sees it bob up to the top, a log again, floating in the middle of the dam.

## PowerPoint for struggling writers

Our latest Cleverbyte #10: PowerPoint for struggling writers is now available on our website.

Writing involves many processes. By the time pen touches paper and the challenge of working out how to spell the first word or even which word to use is reached by a struggling writer, the rest of their ideas may have disappeared from their memory.

Cleverbyte #10: PowerPoint for struggling writers guides you through the steps of how to use the Audio/Record audio feature of PowerPoint to help students remember their ideas in extended writing activities (If students are taught to record their ideas in sentences, PowerPoint can be used as a tool for alternative assessment).

To see all of the SPELD SA Cleverbytes go to [http://www.speld-sa.org.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=143&Itemid=232](http://www.speld-sa.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=143&Itemid=232)

## Important news for Tutors and Volunteers that work on school sites.

From January 2015, a DCSI clearance form is mandatory for all tutors and volunteers that work within a DECD site.

If you are a tutor, you are considered an employee and will have to apply for the Employee status.

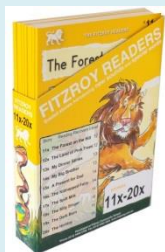
- Employee \$99.55 (inc GST)
- Volunteer \$55.00 (inc GST)

You can download the DCSI clearance application form from <http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/docs/documents/1/ChildRelatedEmploymentScr.pdf>

The clearance form covers you for all schools that you enter when you are teaching or volunteering.

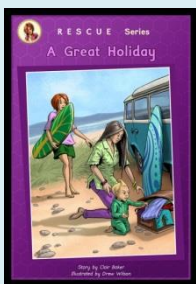
A DCSI clearance lasts for up to 3 years.

## New Products



**Fitzroy collection 11x – 20x.** These readers were created to provide more practice with the *new* sounds introduced in Fitzroy 11 – 20 (/er/ /all/ etc); and to provide longer narratives for students at this level.

Some titles include The Forest on the Hill, The Land of Pink Trees and The Holiday. The 11x – 20x Word Skill book will be available late in 2015. Cost: \$60



**The Rescue Series** published by Dandelion. This is a set of 10 books ideal for older readers who have gaps in their phonic knowledge. It caters for the 8 – 14 age groups and follows on from the Totem Series. It introduces more

alternative spellings for the vowel sounds: 'ae', 'ee', 'oe', 'er', 'ow/oi', 'oo', 'ie', 'or', 'air' and 'ar'. Cost: \$115

These readers are also available in the SPELD SA library.

**Fitzroy Maths Consolidating Level Work Books 21-25, and the Fitzroy Maths Continuing Level Work Books 26 - 30.** These books provide revision and consolidation of skills. Cost : \$60

These maths books are also available in the SPELD SA library.

**Understanding Learning Difficulties** is a booklet "...designed to provide primary and secondary school teachers throughout Australia with a greater awareness and understanding of the significant impact learning disabilities can have on students..." (DSF, 2014) This is new to SPELD and provides practical advice. Cost : \$60

**Grammar Songs (Jolly Phonics)** comes with a CD and assists with helping children to learn elements of grammar in a fun and memorable way. Cost: \$30

### SPELD SA Members Special

Schools and individuals that are current members receive 5% discount when they purchase the following products.

Dandelion Phonic Books

Jolly Phonics Products

SPELD SA Phonic books

Fitzroy Readers

To see available books, and to download an order form, go to the SPELD SA Website under

[Shop/Dandelion Readers](#)

[Shop/Fitzroy Readers](#)

[Shop/Jolly Phonic products](#)

[Shop/SPELD SA phonic books](#)

The downloadable order form is at the top of the page

To become a SPELD SA member go to

<http://www.speld->

[sa.org.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=18&Itemid=60](http://www.speld-sa.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=18&Itemid=60)