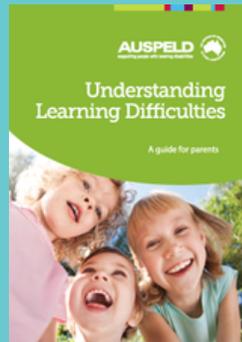




## Understanding Learning Difficulties

Auspeld Understanding Learning Difficulties - A Guide for Parents.



An overview of structured systematic phonics programs.

Download free at [uldforparents.com](http://uldforparents.com)

## Online Support

Dyslexia Support Mid North Coast  
[facebook.com/groups/dyslexiamnc](https://facebook.com/groups/dyslexiamnc)

Learning Difficulties Australia  
[ldaustralia.org](http://ldaustralia.org)

SPELD NSW  
[speldnsw.org.au](http://speldnsw.org.au)

Early Connections Alliance is a network of registered not for profit organisations working together to create a strong and connected Early Childhood Intervention Network on the Mid North Coast.

# Identification Intervention Support

Primary Children aged 4 to 12

- ✓ Reading
- ✓ Spelling
- ✓ Writing
- ✓ Handwriting

**The Early Connections Literacy Team** includes special education teachers, speech pathologists, psychologists and occupational therapists.

Our professionals are trained in programs including **Sounds Write** and **Talk for Writing**.

Early assessment and **evidence-based intervention** for children with learning difficulties is the key to success.



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Early Connections Port Macquarie / Hastings  
[earlyconnections.org.au](http://earlyconnections.org.au)

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# THE LITERACY TEAM

EARLY CONNECTIONS SPECIALIST SERVICE

# Concerned about your child's reading, writing, spelling or handwriting skills?

## 1 Check your child's hearing

Visit the Community Health Centre or an audiologist. A referral from your GP under a Care Plan reduces cost. A hearing assessment is recommended even if your child passed their hearing screening test before starting school.

## 2 Check your child's vision

Visit an optometrist or ophthalmologist. This is recommended even if your child passed their vision assessment before starting school.

## 3 Discuss concerns with classroom teacher, learning support team or school counsellor.

Ask if your child can participate in a small group evidence based intervention targeting areas of weakness.

If small group instruction is not available at your school seek professional support early.

If your child has received six months or more of consistent learning support and you still have concerns seek professional support.

## Speech pathologist



Literacy Team speech pathologists specialise in reading and writing difficulties.

Consult a speech pathologist if you have concerns about articulation of speech sounds, auditory comprehension, expressive language, sound awareness skills, reading, spelling and handwriting including letter reversals.

Speech pathologists can provide an individual intervention plan including accommodations and adjustments recommended for school.

## Occupational therapist



Consult an occupational therapist for handwriting, attention difficulties or sensory issues.

Occupational therapy can help with low muscle tone and postural issues as well as motor planning deficits.

Occupational therapists can diagnose and treat motor-based dysgraphia or developmental coordination disorder.

## Specialist tutors



Early Connections special education teachers can tutor your child individually or in groups.

## Educational or developmental psychologist



Consult a psychologist if you have concerns about inattentive or hyperactive behaviours, ADHD, emotional difficulties or possible autism.

Psychologists can diagnose specific learning disorders including dyslexia, dysgraphia and dyscalculia.

Consider an assessment if your child has difficulty with:

- reading and comprehension
- spelling
- written expression and handwriting
- grammar and punctuation
- organisational skills

## Paediatrician



Consult a paediatrician for medical checks to rule out the following:

- neurological conditions
- inattentive or hyperactive behaviours
- ADHD
- autism
- other medical conditions that may affect learning

Ask your GP for a referral to a local paediatrician.