

## DCSF Funding Criteria for Dyslexia-SpLD Specialist Teacher Training

On 22 June 2009 Sir Jim Rose published a report entitled "Identifying and Teaching Children and Young People with Dyslexia and Literacy Difficulties", which included a recommendation that the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DSCF) should fund a number of teachers to undertake appropriately accredited specialist training in teaching children with dyslexia.

The DCSF have endorsed all the recommendations in Sir Jim's report and made available around £10m between now and the end of March 2011, to support their implementation and other dyslexia projects. The majority of this money is committed to funding course fees for up to 4,000 teachers wishing to study towards an ATS or AMBDA level qualification which has been accredited. Funding will also be considered for those who have already achieved an ATS qualification who wish to enhance this to AMBDA level.

The funding is allocated on request, to those course providers whose courses are accredited by the British Dyslexia Association (BDA). This is for reasons of quality assurance.

The aim of funding these additional training places is to build capacity within the school system to improve access to specialist and high quality support for children and young people with dyslexia. Access to this type of specialist support can be significantly improved by encouraging schools and Local Authorities (LAs) to work in partnership and to pool their resources. Head Teachers are also encouraged to look at existing cluster arrangements and to be proactive in thinking about how they might deploy the expertise of a specialist teacher across a number of schools in their area.

Applicants must apply direct to an appropriate accredited course provider for a place on a course, but first, they should check that they meet the funding criteria set out below. They can then register on-line via this website to be kept up to date on funded courses available nationally.

### Funding eligibility criteria

In order to meet the funding criteria, **all** applicants must:

Hold Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and have completed their induction year; **AND**

Be working in England or, if between posts, be living in England. Wales, Scotland and Ireland are not eligible for Government funding under this particular scheme.

#### If working:

- They must be employed within a mainstream school, a Local Authority Support Service or the Voluntary sector in England.
- They must be working in the state school sector. Please note that further education, higher education or independent schools are not eligible for Government funding under this particular scheme;
- They must obtain a letter of support from their Head Teacher or Manager/Senior LA Officer, confirming their professional and personal suitability, their commitment to successfully completing the training and their ability to deploy their specialist skills and knowledge post-training;

#### If between posts or returning to work:

- They must be living and intending to work in England;
- They must obtain a letter of support from a former Head Teacher or Manager, confirming their professional and personal suitability, their commitment to successfully completing the training and their ability to deploy their specialist skills and knowledge post-training.

**Please note: These are the eligibility criteria for DCSF funding for specialist training. The question of a candidate's eligibility for any specific course is a matter for the course provider. Please apply direct to the provider of your choice.**