



LITERACY SPECIALISTS • TEACHERS • ASSESSORS

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**Speak to us on 01784-222342**



## Guild Gallery - May 2020

Dear Guild Members,

We hope that you, your families and those who you support are safe and well. You might like to make use of some of your member benefits while you are exploring the great indoors. To access these benefits you must be logged in to the Guild members' website, [click here](#) to login:



**Guild Forums** – peer to peer problem solving, tap into knowledge in the sector and network online.



**Library** – the National Dyslexia Resource Centre library contains plenty of e-book titles and EBSCO e-journal articles on a wide range of teaching, learning, assessment and literacy subjects that are free to read online.



**Dyslexia Review** – access to back copies to read some of the fascinating topics you might have missed.



**Webinars** – you can find these under Member Events and they are all free.

### New Free Webinar

#### Supporting your finances and small businesses during lockdown, what do I do next?

This recorded event covers various topics to support guild members with their finances and small businesses during the current lockdown period, and includes:

- What support is available?
- How to access the support
- Inspiration, information and practical help for self-employed people or those who are thinking about starting something new
- Why now is the best time to start a business?
- How to look after your finances and thrive during turbulent times

The webinar is led by Simon Paine, CEO of the PopUp Business School recently featured in the Daily Telegraph for the support for small businesses and self-employed. He was joined by Emma May, a former Deloitte Accountant and co-founder of Milward, May and Co.

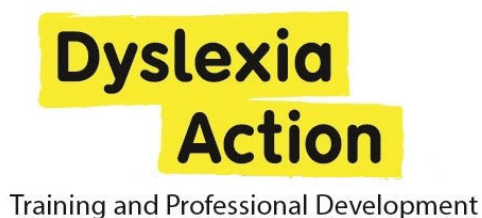
To access the webinar you must be logged in to the Guild members' website and go to Member Events, [click here](#) to login.

### Free Toolkit

We shall shortly be launching a free toolkit (before the end of May 2020) which is suitable for those Supporting Adults (the materials will also be relevant to practitioners working with children with literacy difficulties, as many of the ideas within it can be adapted for use with younger learners).

**Please note:** This free toolkit will not be recognised as CPD for ADG FE/HE provisional membership status, for those who have not yet completed [The Certificate in Supporting Adults with Dyslexia and Co-occurring Difficulties](#) (DACRT56), but may be suitable CPD for qualified Guild members' to add to their CPD Log (total 4 hours, no certificate is provided).

### Training Courses



The summer is a great time to catch up on your continuing professional development (CPD). Below is a selection of courses you may be interested in:

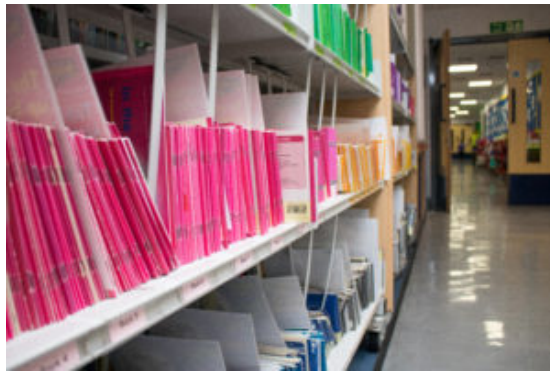
#### CPD Short Unit Courses Level 4 and 5 (online)

Suitable for qualified classroom teachers, teaching or learning assistants, study skills tutors and those based overseas, our CPD courses are all delivered online and do not require access to a student or a learner. You will be given tutor support through forums on Moodle, our virtual learning environment. Our next courses start on 15 July, [click here](#) for further details and to book.

#### Courses for Qualified SpLD Professionals

Our Specialist CPD Programme is designed for those who are already qualified SpLD teachers/practitioners and assessors, and will help you to stay at the forefront of all information in the field and have access to the latest resources, [click here](#) for further information.

### Assessment News



### **SASC New Report Formats**

For those of you who hold an Assessment Practising Certificate, new report formats have been available for use from 1st July 2019 and will be mandatory from 1 July 2020.

Pro-forma for Pre and Post 16 formats in both pdf and Word format are available from the [Downloads page of the SASC website](#).

**4th or subsequent APC renewals will need to have completed SASC authorised training in the New Report Format by July 2020 and provide evidence of this to their issuing body to maintain the validity of their APC.**

Specialist assessors who will be renewing their APC for the 4th time, or have previously renewed for the 4th time, are no longer required to submit a report for review. Given the introduction of the new report formats SASC has notified all APC issuing bodies that those who will be renewing their APC for the 4th time or have previously done so will need to have completed SASC authorised training in the New Report Format and provide evidence of this to their issuing body to maintain the validity of their APC by July 2020.

Guild APC holders can find a free webinar recording about the SASC Report Format Changes presented by Dr Anna Smith once logged into the Guild member area under [Member Events](#). If you have a query regarding obtaining or renewing an APC you can find detailed information here or alternatively you can email the APC Administrator at [apc@dyslexiaaction.org.uk](mailto:apc@dyslexiaaction.org.uk)

### **SASC Dyscalculia Guidance Released**

The guidance outlines key principles, a definition, and suggests what should be included in an assessment. It describes who can assess for difficulties with mathematics and what training they should have. See Downloads [here](#).

### **Updated SASC guidance on English as an Additional Language (EAL)**

Updated guidance is available on the assessment of individuals for whom English is an additional language and/or where there is a complex linguistic history. See SASC website downloads [here](#).

### **SASC Guidance on Assessment and Social Distancing**

SASC has consulted with a wide range of key publishers and professional organisations to inform the detailed guidance to provide clarification to those assessors unsure how to respond to requests for assessment. The full guidance paper is downloadable from the SASC website following this link [here](#).

## **Other news**

### **Creative Differences – a handbook, explores how creative industry can embrace neurodiversity**

The book is designed by creative consultancy Music and commissioned by Universal Music UK, and shows how employers can better support neuro-diverse workers. By designing the



handbook to be as accessible as possible to all, they hope to reach a wide audience. Read the handbook [here](#).

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### Family literacy



The UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL), together with national and local partners in selected countries in Africa and South Asia, has completed a series of capacity-building workshops on family literacy and learning. The workshops were offered within the framework of UIL's Family and Intergenerational Literacy and Learning (FILL) project, sponsored by the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany. The project explores family literacy from a humanistic literacy and lifelong learning perspective, building on everyday family practices and resources developed within communities. More details, resources and related publications can be found on [the UNESCO website](#).

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### Poor Connectivity strongly related to children's difficulties

Different Learning difficulties do not correspond to specific regions of the brain, as previously thought, say researchers at the University of Cambridge. The researchers found that the brain differences did not map onto any labels the children had been given – in other words, there were no brain regions that predicted having ASD or ADHD, for example. More surprisingly, they found that the different brain regions did not even predict specific cognitive difficulties – there was no specific brain deficit for language problems or memory difficulties, for example.

Instead, the team found that the children's brains were organised around hubs, like an efficient traffic system or social network. Children who had well-connected brain hubs had either very specific cognitive difficulties, such as poor listening skills, or had no cognitive difficulties at all. By contrast, children with poorly connected hubs – like a train station with few or poor connections – had widespread and severe cognitive problems. See [here](#).

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### School closures during lockdown outbreak



As a response to school closures, The National Literacy Trust has developed a new web portal for parents, Family Zone, to support them during this time. Split up by age group, parents can find ideas and guidance for simple activities that will engage children at home, while also benefiting their reading, writing and language development. The website features free reading and writing resources, audiobooks, videos, competitions and reading challenges. See [here](#).

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### Free Software for use at home

Call Scotland have listed some useful software for students with additional support needs that can be used at home such as writing tools and literacy support packages. See [here](#).

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### Accessible learning from home

The RNIB has produced a list of helpful tips for teachers and parents during the lockdown and using Bookshare and accessible learning from home. See [here](#).

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## Education Endowment Fund reports



The latest guidance report, *Special Educational Needs in Mainstream Schools*, offers five evidence-based recommendations to support pupils with SEND, providing a starting point for schools to review their current approach and practical ideas they can implement. More info [here](#).

The EEF has many practical tools and resources to support schools in putting our evidence-based resources to good use in the coming weeks and months.

Here's a couple of EEF guidance reports you may find especially helpful:

- Using Digital Technology to Improve Learning
- Working with Parents to Support Children's Learning

You can find all 15 reports [here](#)

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## Reading Agency Toolkit



The Reading Agency has a toolkit which contains lots of resources and ideas to ensure we all keep reading and stay connected as well as a hub to entertain and educate yourself, your family or those you are teaching remotely. You can find out more in their hub [here](#). They also provide schemes that support adults [here](#).

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## Talented Disabled Candidates just need an even break



Evenbreak is a dedicated job board that helps disabled candidates and inclusive employers to find each other. Evenbreak is run by and for disabled people, so they have experience of some of the career challenges faced by candidates. The employers who list on the site are keen to attract disabled talent. They understand the benefits of a truly diverse workforce and are trying to make their recruitment processes more inclusive. Some of them also subscribe to the Best Practice Portal, which allows them access to hundreds of pages of advice and information about employing disabled people. See [here](#).

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## Primary School Teachers - can you help with research into spelling?

We have been asked by a team at University College London (UCL) to share the link below in order to support the team's research in spelling in primary schools. Dr Emma Sumner writes:

We're trying to collect data on how spelling is currently being taught in primary schools. From this we hope to determine where more support may be needed but also to pull out a list of useful resources/strategies that can be shared for all.

The survey takes between 5-10 mins to complete. We're looking for primary school teachers to take part (it's all anonymous). I know it's a challenging time for everyone at the moment and many won't have time to do this (if home-schooling or caring for others, etc.), but [here's the link](#) for anyone that can spare the time.

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Visit [our website](#) to see the latest information regarding membership benefits, and how to access the Guild member's library and directory.



Training and Professional Development

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