In your school, are there...

...children with language difficulties?

...children with reading & spelling difficulties?

...children at educational risk?

You may benefit from accessing support from the NEMLDC Outreach Service
In Western Australia there are 5 Language Development Centres (LDC), each providing intensive oral language and literacy early intervention to children with Specific Language Impairment. Each LDC has an attached Outreach Service (North East, West Coast, South East, Fremantle & Peel).

The NEMLDC Outreach Service provides support to the former Swan Education district and the Wheatbelt region. Our office is located at the North East Metropolitan Language Development Centre, 18 View St, Dianella WA.

Under the LDC Principal, the NEMLDC Outreach Service consists of a team of ‘Support Officers, Speech and Language’. A Support Officer is a speech pathologist with specialist knowledge and experience in language and literacy development within schools. The NEMLDC Outreach Service offers a range of services to schools.

**What we do**

It is estimated that at any one time in WA, there are approximately 50 000 students with language related difficulties in the school system. There are specialist facilities which can cater for these students, however positions are limited. To help support those who are unable to access this level of support, the NEMLDC Outreach Service provides a service to fill this gap.

The service aims to build capacity of schools in the areas of language and literacy development by expanding the knowledge and leadership skills of staff. Schools are prioritised for services based on level of commitment. The service also prides itself on developing and disseminating evidence based programs to schools in a way that results in sustainable advances in the teaching of language and literacy. Some of the services provided by the NEMLDC Outreach Service include:

- Professional development
- Whole school planning support
- Mentoring
- Resource development and dissemination
- Speech pathology student intervention
Language Leadership Schools Series (LLSS)

Who it is for: This course is designed for individuals who will be a key language leader in their school – a person who supports others in the school in achieving a whole school approach to effectively implementing language and literacy teaching. This person can be a teacher or school admin member. This course is also suitable for individuals who wish to expand their knowledge base regarding language and literacy in general, with a particular focus on the early years.

What is covered in sessions:
Sessions provide participants with foundational best practice knowledge of key language areas including semantics, narrative, grammar, literacy – phonological awareness, phonics, spelling and word study; comprehension and social skills. In addition participants are introduced to effective coaching strategies. This knowledge will support participants to effectively assess language and literacy, analyse and use this data and effectively implement language and literacy programs in their school.

The coaching strategies included in the course support participants to be effective leaders within their schools. As part of the LLSS participants take part in action research by which they develop an iSMART goal relating to what they aim to achieve in their school that year. Outside of sessions participants are given ongoing support from the NEMLDC Outreach Team in achieving their goal through ongoing communication and mentoring. Within sessions participants are provided with many opportunities to network with staff from other schools, share ideas and support each other.

Course structure: This course consists of 8 full days of professional development and coaching spread across the year.

Other benefits: Schools with a staff member enrolled receive ongoing contact and support from the NEMLDC Outreach Service and are high priorities for whole school professional development and support.

Cost: $400
Language Leadership Schools Network (LLSN)

Who it is for: This course is designed for individuals who have previously taken part in the Language Leadership Schools Series. There are 2 ‘strands’ for individuals wishing to take part in the course. Network Strand 1 is for individuals who are new to the Language Leadership Schools Network and have not previously attended Network sessions. Network Strand 2 is for people who have previously been involved with Network sessions.

What is covered in sessions:
This course is designed to support language leaders to continue to implement language and literacy in their school effectively. The course aims to provide participants with refreshed and updated knowledge, resources and strategies in relation to language and literacy teaching. It also aims to provide an ongoing learning community within which to network with others, share experiences and support each other.
As part of the LLSN participants develop and work towards achieving an iSMART goal related to their school’s language/literacy focus. Throughout the year participants are supported by the NEMLDC Outreach Service to achieve their goal through ongoing communication and mentoring.

All LLSN sessions provide opportunities for participants to network with staff from other schools, share ideas and support each other. Sessions are broadly divided into ‘Knowledge Days’ and ‘Connection Days’ - Knowledge Days have a focus on updating / refining prior knowledge regarding language and literacy; Connection Days have a focus on topical discussion and networking. All sessions however incorporate high levels of discussion, collaboration and networking. The Network is designed to be fluid and responsive to participants’ needs. Though broad topic areas have been set for the series, these may change according to participants’ feedback and learning needs.

Course structure: Participants are required to attend 4 out of the 6 full day sessions which are offered (however participants are welcome to attend more if desired). Participants must attend the first 2 sessions, and may then choose which additional 2 they would like to attend.

Other benefits: Schools with a staff member enrolled receive ongoing contact and support from the NEMLDC Outreach Service and will be prioritised for whole school professional development and support if required.

Cost: $200
**K-2, Years 3-7 Language Area Focus Professional Development**

*Who it is for:* These professional development sessions are for teachers, education assistants & school administration staff who wish to expand their knowledge and ability to effectively implement language and literacy.

*What is covered in sessions:* The focus area of these professional development sessions varies from term to term depending on the needs of schools in the region. Professional development may be offered in the following areas: semantics, literacy – PA, phonics, spelling and word study, narrative, grammar, social skills, reading comprehension and the use of technology to support language and literacy. These professional development sessions include background theory, practical strategies, resources and skills needed to effectively teach language and literacy for various age groups. Participants are given the opportunity to practise implementing skills taught and are provided with electronic resources to take back to their schools. Please refer to [https://plis.det.wa.edu.au](https://plis.det.wa.edu.au) to see what is currently available.

*Course structure:* Variable. All sessions are presented at the NEMLDC or regional centres.

*Cost:* Please see [https://plis.det.wa.edu.au](https://plis.det.wa.edu.au)

**Education Assistant Language Area Focus sessions**

*Who it is for:* Education Assistant (EA) professional development sessions are specifically catered for education assistants who wish to expand their knowledge and ability to effectively implement language and literacy education.

*What is covered in sessions:* These EA professional development sessions target a particular language area (literacy & semantics are regularly presented). These professional development sessions briefly cover relevant background theory, with the main focus on the practical strategies and resources used to effectively support language and literacy development. Workshops provide participants with hands on experiences using strategies and resources, and may also involve ‘make and take sessions’ whereby participants practise and make a resource in the session to take back to their school. Please refer to [https://plis.det.wa.edu.au](https://plis.det.wa.edu.au) to see what is currently available.

*Course structure:* Variable. All sessions are presented at the NEMLDC or regional centres.

*Cost:* Please see [https://plis.det.wa.edu.au](https://plis.det.wa.edu.au)
Learning Language and Loving It

**Who it is for:** Early childhood educators

**What it is about:**
Hanen’s Learning Language and Loving It is an internationally accredited, evidence based program focussing on educator and student interactions to facilitate language development. In sessions participants are given strategies to encourage and develop language in children. Participants engage in reflective learning by videoing short interactions with children in which they practise implementing target strategies, and then take part in reflective discussion and feedback with the facilitating speech pathologist. It is strongly recommended that schools enrol more than one participant at a time.

**Course structure:** Variable – typically 8 after school sessions & 4 video feedback sessions

**Cost:** Please see [https://plis.det.wa.edu.au](https://plis.det.wa.edu.au)

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**Services Offered:**

**School Based Support**

**Network & School Based Professional Development**

Professional development workshops may be run at schools/networks engaged with the NEMLDC Outreach Service as part of the schools’ Service Agreement. Workshops are available in a range of language & literacy focus areas and can include background theory, assessment, data analysis, intervention strategies & resources. Workshops can be customised to suit the needs of the host school/network. Highly committed schools are given preference.

**Whole School Planning Support**

Committed schools involved with the NEMLDC Outreach Service can access planning support for whole school language and literacy intervention. The service can consult with school administration and key language leaders to support schools in developing, adapting and implementing effective language and literacy programs to best suit the school context.

**Speech Pathology Student Placement**

Schools may access final year speech pathology students to work collaboratively in classrooms with teachers to support students’ language and literacy development. Speech pathology students may also provide additional withdrawal support for individual and groups of students requiring speech, language or literacy intervention. A speech pathology student placement provides schools with regular contact with the supervising speech pathologist (who is also a support officer, speech & language). Schools demonstrating high levels of commitment may be offered this service.
Resources

The NEMLDC Outreach Service prides itself on developing and disseminating evidence based programs to schools in a way that results in sustainable advances in the teaching of language and literacy. Schools may access electronic resources relating to language and literacy development, including:

- Programs & sample lesson plans
- Supportive classroom resources
- Assessment and analysis tools
- Professional development materials
- Scope & sequence documents with Australian Curriculum links

Opportunities for LDC & mainstream observation

The NEMLDC Outreach Service provides schools with opportunities for staff to observe best practice language and literacy intervention in the LDC and in selected mainstream schools. Observation opportunities also include guided reflection with a Support Officer.
How to contact the NEMLDC Outreach Service

North East Metro Language Development Centre
18 View Street, DIANELLA WA 6059

Ph: (08) 9275 5511

Fax: (08) 9275 5319

Email: northeastmetro.ldc@education.wa.edu.au

Web: www.northeastldc.wa.edu.au

ABN 21 465 662 968

To view & register for Professional Learning Workshops please search for the North East LDC events on the PLIS website: https://plis.det.wa.edu.au