

FACETS NEWSLETTER

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WORLD DYSLEXIA AWARENESS WEEK

The Dyslexia Association of Singapore held their annual World Dyslexia Awareness Week (WDAW) from 1 to 6 October 2019 to raise support for children with dyslexia, Specific Learning Differences (SpLD) and to celebrate their diverse talents. More than 10 international dyslexia organisations joined hands to raise awareness in October.

The week began with the 'Let's Embrace Dyslexia' exhibition on 1 October, supported by UOB Business Banking at the UOB Atrium, followed by the 'Clever but Cluttered' parent workshop on 2 October to improve executive function of young learners held at DAS Academy. On 3 October at the Lifelong Learning Institute, parents brought their children to a free screening for Primary 1 to 6 students. Screening allows parents to find out if their child is at-risk of dyslexia.

A "Tea with DAS Specialist Psychologists" session answered parents questions about learning differences, while medical, health and other professionals found out more about social-emotional difficulties in school-going children and SpLD comorbidities at the SpLD Seminar.

DAS organised the inaugural 'Walk for Dyslexia' on 4 October 2019, co-organised with Gardens by the Bay to raise funds for the DAS Bursary Fund to help children with dyslexia from low-income families access a range of interventional programmes and psychological assessments.

"DAS is very grateful to see such strong support from individuals and organisations. It marks another pinnacle in our efforts to improve awareness and resources for students with dyslexia and other SpLDs. As real changes happen when people make a decision to do something meaningful!"

- Mr. Eric Lee, President of DAS.

Ms Denise Phua, Member of Parliament (MP) for Jalan Besar Group Representation Constituency (GRC) and Mayor of Central Singapore District led the walk at Gardens by the Bay as the event's guest-of-honour. WDAW 2019 culminated in the 'Score for Dyslexia' charity football match on 6 October 2019 co-organised with Sport Singapore and ActiveSG Football Academy at the Jalan Besar Stadium, a rare occasion whereby local veteran football icons will played against contending teams comprising F17 Academy Footballers and children aged seven to twelve with dyslexia. A free football clinic was conducted by coaches from the ActiveSG Football Academy before the matches.

Check out the event photos here!

APPLAUSE



STUDENT GRADUATION AND AWARDS CEREMONY 2019

The 17th Student Graduation & Achievement Awards Ceremony was held on 26 November 2019. The event celebrated 357 DAS students from across 14 DAS Learning Centres and their achievements in both academic and non-academic pursuits.

We congratulate all graduates for attaining competency in literacy to support their future learning journey!



MORE ABOUT THE COVER STORY

Six Members of Parliament (MPs) teamed up with 20 local football icons from the past three decades - in one of their largest reunions to-date, to raise awareness of dyslexia and funds for children with dyslexia and other Specific Learning Differences (SpLD) who are from lower income families. They played a total of three matches against a star-studded team comprising seven celebrity artistes and F17 Academy coaches.

The stellar MPs and Legends line-up included MPs Mr Chong Kee Hiong, Associate Professor Daniel Goh Pei Siong (NCMP), Mr Muhamad Faisal Abdul Manap, Mr Pritam Singh, Mr Seah Kian Peng and Mr Teo Ser Luck; and a huge squad of legends comprising Aleksandar Duric, D. Tokijan, Daniel Bennett, Fandi Ahmad, Fahrudin Mustafic, Lee Man Hon, Lionel Lewis, Lim Tong Hai, Malek Awab, Nahar Daud, Rafi Ali, Rezal Hassan, Razali Saad, Steven Tan and Terry Pathmanathan.



CHARITY TRANSPARENCY AWARD 2019

Dyslexia Association of Singapore was the recipient at the 4th Charity Transparency and Governance Awards and was conferred the Charity Transparency Award 2019 by the Charity Council on 3rd December 2019.

The Charity Transparency Awards are a part of the broader scheme of the Charity Governance Awards that are an initiative by the Charity Council. They aim to promote good governance in the charity sector by acknowledging the excellent work of charities, while inspiring others to emulate their best practices.

To recognise charities with good disclosure practices, charities that meet the qualifying standards in disclosure under the Charity Transparency Framework will receive the Charity Transparency Awards.

(Source: Charity Council)

EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE

SINGAPORE LEARNING DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE 2019

I attended the Singapore Learning Design and Technology 2019 Conference from 1 to 2 August at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Singapore. It was a formal conference and was well attended by representatives from the National Institute of Education Singapore, various polytechnics, universities as well as experts in the field of learning design and educational technology.

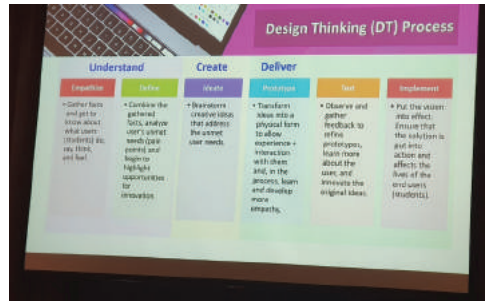
Professor Emeritus Chanita Rukspolmuang, the vice president for Academic Development in Siam University did the opening of the conference as well as the first keynote, titled Design Thinking as a strategy in General Education Revision, the takeaway from her session was that tomorrow's world will not be the same as today's and therefore it is crucial that educational leaders and institutions rethink about what is offered to the students through the various programmes and initiatives. She elaborated on the new normal versus the old normal - that what used to be normal before is not the norm now and definitely, will not be the norm in the future. Hence, we are currently in the stages of getting to terms with disruptive technologies around us, in the world of disruption. The ways we learnt, the ways we did our day to day tasks and the way we lived are very different then and now.

Prof Chanita also shared on the four ways disruptive technologies affect us, using the abbreviation VUCA:

- a) V - volatility, which is the rate of change
- b) U - uncertainty, which is about being unclear about the present and the future
- c) C - complexity, which is to have to deal with multiple decision factors; and lastly
- d) A - ambiguity, which refers to the lack of clarity about meaning of an event.

She then proposed another VUCA to counter the earlier:

- a) V - vision
- b) U - understanding
- c) C - clarity, and lastly
- d) A- agility. In order to equip our students with the solution-based VUCA, the focus has to be on new knowledge, skills needed for the future, with right attitudes and values in place and educational systems that guide and shape effective performance from the graduates.



Prof Chanita's proposed design thinking model for Siam University (still in the research phase)

Overall, I was very touched and had to deal with praises (which I am not comfortable with) on my sharing at the conference. It was nice to hear good words of encouragement from people in the industry, and to also see and learn on what they had done and implemented. After attending this conference, I am certain that I can contribute much more to the DAS ELL Team, in terms of our projects, as well as for our educational therapists and students.



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TIPS

DEVELOPING PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS IN YOUNG CHILDREN

By Nadia Ali & Vera Tai
Specialised Educational Services, Preschool Educational Therapists

What is Phonological Awareness

"Phonological Awareness is listening to, understanding and manipulating the different sounds and patterns of spoken language."

University of North Florida, (2010); Philips,Clancy-Menchetti & Lonigan,(2008).

Why is Phonological Awareness Important in arly intervention?

"Phonological Awareness is listening to, understanding and manipulating the different sounds and patterns of spoken language."

University of North Florida, (2010); Philips,Clancy-Menchetti & Lonigan,(2008).

PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS ACTIVITIES



WORD AWARENESS

Count the number of words in a sentence using counters.



RHYME AWARENESS

Match a word that rhymes with colours. (eg. shoe/blue)



SYLLABLE AWARENESS

Count the number of syllables in a word by clapping or tapping drums.



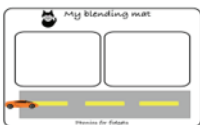
ALLITERATION AWARENESS

Identify beginning sounds of a picture in a hidden egg.



PHONEMIC AWARENESS

Isolation - Give a thumbs-up signal if the word contains the sound at the target placement. Eg: "The sound is /b/ and it can be found at the beginning of the word."



Blending - Joining sounds to make a word using the blending mat.

Phonological activities tune children's sensitivity to speech sounds.



Close your eyes and listen to your surroundings.
What sound can you spot with your ears?

WHAT ARE THE FIVE PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS SKILLS?



WORD AWARENESS

Separate a sentence into words.



RHYME AWARENESS

Words with the same vowel and ending sound.



SYLLABLE AWARENESS

Separate words into smaller parts.



ALLITERATION AWARENESS

Words with the same beginning sound.



PHONEMIC AWARENESS

Playing with sounds through segmenting, blending, isolating manipulating phonemes

UPCOMING EVENTS



PRESCHOOL SEMINAR 2020 IS BACK!

Organised by preschool professionals from the Specialised Educational Services Division. The seminar will focus on educating young ones and show you tips and tricks to support the weaker learners and feature two keynotes which will discuss social-emotional competence as well as learning in young children and four breakout workshops.

If you are a parent, educator or working with preschoolers, save the date 17 March 2020, Tuesday - 9am to 2pm.



UNITE SPLD CONFERENCE 2020

The UNITE SPLD Conference seeks to bring together more than 70 researchers, parents, teachers and practitioners working with children with Specific Learning Differences (SpLD) and special educational needs.

Save the date for the preconference on 24 June and the main conference from 25 to 26 June 2020.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers can play a vital role in supporting students with learning differences. CARE, SUPPORT and ENGAGE with DAS!

Be a volunteer and help children with dyslexia achieve. We are looking for people with talents and a passion to help the cause. The following areas are available:

- Multimedia, designing, videography & photography
- Buddy reading
- Learning Centre administration
- Ad-hoc event-based support (Mass Screening, Outings, Seminars and Conferences).

☎ 6444 5700 ✉ khatijah.abdsalam@das.org.sg

DONATE

Every dollar received will go directly towards the bursary fund for low-income families access Educational Services.

Help us reach our yearly goal of \$1.5M!



Scan the QR code to find out how you can donate

Donors will receive 2.5 times tax deduction.

FUNDRAISING

Interested to get involved in fundraising projects and events?
Contact surjati@das.org.sg or call 6444 5700.

EDITORIAL TEAM CHIEF EDITOR Deborah Hewes **EDITORIAL TEAM** Esther Chiam Dian Nadhirah Lim Jia Ern

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