

Government Funding Available to Train 4,000 Dyslexia Specialist Teachers.

Following the recent Rose Review report, the government has made a commitment to fund the training of 4,000 more dyslexia specialist teachers. It is intended that this training would be to AMBDA (Associate Member of the British Dyslexia Association) Level (this is QCA Level 7). A number of training courses are available in different regions (please see www.bdadyslexia.org.uk <<http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/>> for a list of courses). These vary in terms of the type of delivery, but are often part-time/twilight courses that are spread over around 18-24 months.

The mechanism for accessing this funding will shortly be announced and will be posted on the Dyslexia-SpLD Trust website (www.thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk <<http://www.thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk/>>). The British Dyslexia Association (BDA) is a member of the Dyslexia-SpLD Trust, along with PATOSS (the Professional Association of Teachers of SpLD Students), Dyslexia Action, Helen Arkell Dyslexia Centre and other key organisations in the field.

The British Dyslexia Association would encourage:

1. individual teachers interested in specialist dyslexia training
2. AMBDA course providers
3. other interested parties (eg. Local Authorities, Children's Services)

To check this website from around 22nd July 2009, when it is anticipated that further information will be available. The site will show the criteria for eligibility for the funding and instructions on how to apply for it. There will also be a link to this site from the BDA website www.bdadyslexia.org.uk <<http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/>> Respondents are encouraged to also send expressions of interest to Sandy Fitzgerald at info@thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk so that the Dyslexia-SpLD Trust can provide a co-ordinated response to enquiries and reflect the scale of the interest back to government. Please do pass

this information on to any other interested parties.

The BDA would like to encourage as many teachers as possible to take up the opportunity of funding for AMBDA courses. It is extremely important to get more specialist trained teachers into the education system to cater appropriately for the needs of children and young people who experience dyslexic difficulties. The Rose Review has suggested a model of having one AMBDA level trained dyslexia specialist teacher available to a cluster of schools (eg. BDA would suggest basing projected staffing calculations on a model of 1 AMBDA teacher per 5 schools). These specialist dyslexia teachers would help with the (early) identification of dyslexic difficulties, oversee the planning, monitoring and reviewing of intervention programmes for these children and young people, and support those delivering the programmes in schools through advice and demonstrations. The AMBDA level teacher would also have a role in supporting and building dyslexia friendly quality first classroom teaching.

This funding is only available for a 2 year period. It presents a wonderful opportunity to increase the amount of effective provision available to children and young people who experience dyslexic difficulties.

Dr. Kate Saunders,

Education and Policy Director
British Dyslexia Association,
Unit 8, Bracknell Beeches,
Old Bracknell Lane,
Bracknell, RG12 7BW.

BDA Office: 0845 251 9003