

The Reading Brain and the MYTH of Dyslexia



Presented by: Ms Olwen Forker, Paediatric Speech Pathologist –
Director of BackChat Speech Pathology

- Working Memory deficits and the impact of impaired Executive Function on learning
- The ‘masked’ effect in students with lots of “Talk talk talk, Read read read, Play play play”
- The MYTH of Dyslexia
 - Stealth Dyslexia
 - True Dyslexia
 - FESD and toxin related learning deficits
- The latest Research and findings from fMRI studies overseas and in the field of neuroscience
- The importance of Exercise in therapy, at school and in general everyday life, in students with Memory/Executive Function deficits
 - > based on Professor John Ratey, MD Harvard University’s work – “Exercise is like Medication for the Brain”

This BackChat Event will now be split and held across both the Bayside and North Brisbane regions due to high demand for this BackChat Event. Further details to follow.

To purchase advance tickets and to register for this BackChat Event please e-mail the BackChat Office - backchatspeech@gmail.com. Please note this Event will be advertised and opened up to the public on the BackChat Facebook this week.

About the Speaker

Olwen Forker is a Paediatric Speech Pathologist and is the Director of BackChat Speech Pathology. Her unique therapy consultancy implements the latest research from overseas based on neuroscience - the science of the brain and how to improve 'whole brain' type learning function in students. The BackChat Clinic uses exercise and high intensity repetition, to improve language, literacy and learning outcomes in students.

Olwen has a body of publications for which she is well-known, including the *Baby BackChat* and *The Sound Hound* early years intervention resources. **The Reading Brain Method**™ which she has developed has proved extremely successful in treating students with both severe Memory and Executive Function type deficits.

Olwen is currently in negotiation with a number of Universities, including UQ and Bond University, who are particularly interested in her intensive visual stimulation intervention program, which significantly improves Reading function in children with severe Memory and/or severe Executive Function issues. The use of fMRI research to observe, to record and to prove her theory of plasticity or shift seen in children presenting with these more severe profiles, is an area she is passionate about and Olwen is thrilled to be taking her work, to the next level.

Many schools, family day care providers, learning support departments and kindergartens across Queensland implement Olwen's programs within their settings as they are based on the latest neuroscience-based intervention practices from overseas.

Olwen's programs are highly repetitive in nature, yet layered so as children retain and understand early concepts, they are then extended to a higher level. Her intervention programs also includes highly intensive exercise to naturally stimulate the brain during therapy sessions. When repeated in conjunction with the repetitive, cognitive –based activities, teachers and caregivers see huge shift in 'whole brain plasticity' – or function, across the cortex.

As the mother of three boys, one of whom has a diagnosed Primary Executive Function impairment, Olwen has a unique perspective on these children not just as a Therapist who has specialised in this area for 12 years, but also as a very hands on Mum.
