

Patron: Jackie French AM, Australian Children's Laureate 2014-2015, Senior Australian of the Year 2015

Workshop Information

Title: Dyslexia in a 'Sea of Strengths'

Audience: Groups of children or adolescents (younger group ages 7-11; older group ages 12-17)

Length: 90 minutes

Content:

Children with dyslexia and other learning disorders often encounter and hold false and unhealthy perceptions about themselves and their difficulties. Furthermore, they are at heightened risk for developing anxiety disorders and other psychological conditions. It is therefore important that young people with dyslexia are supported along the path of forming a healthy, positive, realistic, and balanced sense of self.

This program's goals are to assist young people;

1. to better understand what dyslexia is and is not in the context of the 'Sea of Strengths' model of dyslexia;
2. to develop their resilience; and
3. to connect with other young people who know what it's like. The program is designed to be fun, positive, and engaging with games and activities.

Presenter Biography

Dr. Michael Maier is a published author, former psychology professor, and award-winning psychologist with over 15 years of experience supporting children, families, and schools. He has worked in schools, non profits, and private practice settings in both the United States and Australia. Recognized by his colleagues for his expertise, he has been elected to the executive board positions of president and treasurer of the Georgia Association of School Psychologists as well as asked to give lectures for schools, professional associations, parenting groups, conferences, and universities including the University of Georgia, Georgia State University, and Georgia Gwinnett College. Having conducted over 1,000 psychoeducational evaluations, he has a wealth of experience in assessment, consultation, and psychotherapy for individuals with: autism spectrum disorder (ASD); attention-deficit hyperactivity/impulsivity disorder (ADHD); dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia, and other learning disorders; intellectual disability; and emotional and behavioural disorders such as anxiety disorders, mood disorders, and others.