

6 Reasons you need to meet with your child's teachers at the start of every school year when your child has a Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD)

By Liz Dunoon



1. It will lower your protective parent anxiety levels and make you feel better.
2. It will make your child feel less anxious about beginning the school year.
3. You will develop a rapport with your child's teachers from day one, which is important, as teachers become a critical part of your support team. It is imperative that they understand what having a SpLD means for your child.
4. Make sure they understand the intricacies of your child's learning difficulty. Give them examples or copies of your child's past work, relevant school reports or specialist reports you may have. Provide them with a short summary of your child's strengths and weaknesses in point form; don't forget to include the psychological aspects. Give them an indication of your child's favourite ways to learn. Include the names of any of your child's peers who are helpful and supportive of your child and their needs.
5. In your conversation include any learning or teaching support structures that your child has found helpful in the past. This may include particular support teachers, alternative formats, extra time etc. It is often the case that the parent is the only communication link between a child's year level teachers.

6. Make sure you also speak to any other specialist teachers who will come into contact with your child. It only takes one small comment or incident to shatter your child's confidence and ruin their day, week or year.

Starting the school year with a meeting like this can mean the difference between your child having a happy school year and your child working to the best of their ability as opposed to having a disastrous year.

“When researching specific learning difficulties, I spoke to many teachers.

Many said they were often told a child in their class had a learning difficulty, but not what this meant or how to provide individualised assistance to this child.”

Your child's teacher needs you as much as you need them. Don't assume because they are a qualified teacher, they understand your child's learning difficulties or what your child's individual needs are.

An educated parent invariably becomes the expert.

If your child is to reach their full potential, they will need support at school.

