

## DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION OF SINGAPORE

### ORGANISATION PROFILE

Join a rapidly growing organisation that has over 250 full-time employees and operates from 14 centres and other locations in Singapore!

The Dyslexia Association of Singapore (DAS) provides a continuum of services for children with dyslexia, their parents, mainstream teachers and other professionals in the field of dyslexia in Singapore.

### JOB DESCRIPTION

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Position        | Educational Therapist (Chinese) - Sessional |
| Division/Branch | Chinese Programme, SES Division             |

We are looking for individuals with a passion in teaching Chinese but are not able to commit to a full time job. Candidates must be able to commit to a minimum of 6 teaching hours per week, and respond at short notice to cover classes at the different DAS learning centres. They must be able to commit to this arrangement for a minimum of two years.

#### Programmes under the DAS

Children with dyslexia, once assessed by DAS Specialist Psychologists from the SpLD Assessment Services division, are referred to the Main Literacy Programme (MLP) under our English Language and Literacy (ELL) division. Many children are also referred to DAS by psychologists from MOE, hospitals and private practice. These children attend classes in MOE schools and come to the DAS for additional support after school hours. Students normally come to the 14 DAS learning centres for two hours a week during the regular school term. DAS classes are kept to an average of four students to ensure individual attention can be provided. Our educational therapy is based on the Orton-Gillingham approach and covers a range of literacy skills including phonics, which enables children with dyslexia to learn better and become independent learners. DAS Educational Therapists also meet up regularly with learners' parents to give feedback, advice and encouragement.

Over the years, we have received many requests from parents to provide support in the Chinese Language as well. While some research and remediation programmes have been ongoing in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan, Singapore's unique multilingual environment and learning of Chinese as a second language require differentiation as the challenges that children with dyslexia face in Singapore are different.

The DAS Chinese Team has piloted research in this area in 2009 and kickstarted the Chinese programme for children with dyslexia in Singapore in 2013. The programme, under the Specialised Educational Services (SES) division currently has an enrolment of more than 200 students and has supported more than 500 students over the years.

#### The duties and responsibilities of a Sessional Educational Therapist (Chinese) includes

- Providing intervention in the Chinese language in a small group setting
- Participating in research to evaluate the effectiveness of the programme
- Undergoing continued training to enhance teaching practices and receive other relevant training as required

### TRAINING PROVIDED

The DAS places great emphasis on providing a professional service. To help Sessional Educational Therapists (Chinese) develop in their professional practice, they will attend the Certificate in Dyslexia Studies and the Specialist Diploma in Educational Therapy (Chinese), and sit for the HSK Chinese

Language Proficiency Examination. There will also be ongoing training in your time with the DAS.

The DAS will subsidise 50% of the cost of the training, and the Sessional Educational Therapist (Chinese) is required to pay the remaining amount. The course fees borne by the Sessional Educational Therapist (Chinese) will be reimbursed upon achieving 480 hours of satisfactory teaching with the DAS.

While the DAS is invested in providing training and support, Sessional Educational Therapists (Chinese) are expected to invest their personal time for the training and other matters such as attending lectures, completing the necessary course work and preparing lesson plans for the classes they are teaching.

### COMMITMENT PERIOD

In view of the investment in our Sessional Educational Therapists (Chinese), they are required to commit to this sessional work arrangement for a minimum of two years (equivalent to teaching 480 hours at a minimum of 6 hours per week). If the Sessional Educational Therapist is unable to fulfil this commitment period, they will not receive any reimbursement for the course fees borne by them.

### COMPETENCIES

#### Personal Competencies (Core) :

- Positive learning attitude
- Great drive and initiative
- Passionate in working with children of all ages

#### Technical Competencies (Skills) :

- Microsoft Office

### REQUIREMENTS

#### Education:

- Degree from a recognised university, in any discipline.

#### Experience:

- Experience in teaching the Chinese subject in MOE schools and/or other relevant qualifications will be an advantage.
- Familiarity with the MOE Chinese Curriculum is preferred.

#### Other Skills & Knowledge:

- Proficient in both English and Chinese languages.
- Willing to be part of a team that carries out research, develops and delivers the Chinese programme for the DAS.
- Ability to work flexible hours including weekday evenings and weekends.

### WORKING HOURS

Sessional Educational Therapists (Chinese) are expected to conduct their classes on weekday evenings up to 9 pm, and on Saturdays and Sundays during MOE school terms. They are expected to teach a minimum of six (6) hours a week.

They may also be called upon to respond at short notice to cover classes at the different DAS learning centres.

## WORK VENUE

Sessional Educational Therapists (Chinese) must be willing to travel to different DAS learning centres throughout Singapore. They must expect to work from any of our 14 learning centres in Ang Mo Kio, Bedok, Bishan, Chinatown, Chua Chu Kang, Jurong Point, Parkway Parade, Queenstown, Rex, Sengkang, Serangoon, Tampines, Woodlands and Yishun.

## SALARY AND BENEFITS

Successful candidates will be paid between S\$45 to S\$55 per hour depending on relevant qualifications and teaching experience. These rates are for teaching hours only, and hours for lesson preparation and training will not be paid.

Sessional Educational Therapist (Chinese) will enjoy a 50% discount to attend fee-charging DAS activities including DAS Academy workshops and courses, DAS conferences etc, where deemed relevant by the organisation.

## OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN THE REGISTER OF EDUCATIONAL THERAPIST (ASIA) [RETA]

The DAS has initiated the setting up of a Register of trained and experienced professional tutors and therapists who specialise in supporting individuals with dyslexia and/or related specific learning difficulties. The Register is guided by a steering committee which comprises senior DAS staff and individuals working in the private practice and other educational bodies. The Register will provide public recognition of professional training and competence for members. DAS Educational Therapists will have the opportunity to sign up with RETA (<http://www.reta.sg/>) once they have attained the necessary training and experience.

## APPLICATION DETAILS

All interested applicants are to submit the following as part of their application

1. DAS Employment Application Form, duly completed (form can be downloaded from the Careers page of our website)
2. Resume

Email the above submissions to [jobs@das.org.sg](mailto:jobs@das.org.sg) by **17 February 2019**.

**Only complete applications (with the above 2 items) will be considered.**

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

**All shortlisted candidates are required to attend a Preview Session (date to be advised).**

Selected candidates must be able to attend the initial training commencing **17 June 2019**.