



STRUGGLING LEARNERS

Those who learn differently

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Who is a struggling learner?

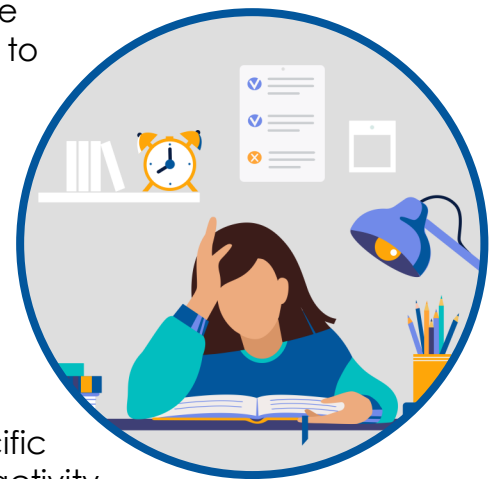
Struggling learners are students who encounter difficulties in their academic journey for various reasons, such as having a learning difference such as dyslexia or a yet-to-be-diagnosed learning difference. Some may have some learning difficulties but do not meet the criteria for a diagnosis of a learning difference.

They may lack the foundational knowledge or skills, have attention and focus issues, have challenges with executive functioning, and or have emotional and behavioural difficulties. These students require additional support to reach their full potential. They may have attended tuition or other educational programmes but continue to experience challenges with specific aspects of learning. A good number have “fallen through the cracks”. The Dyslexia Association of Singapore recognises the obstacles these students face and provides specialist services to help them overcome their challenges and achieve academic success. DAS services are effective for those with dyslexia as well as those who struggle to learn.

What is the difference between a struggling learner and a learner with a diagnosis of a learning difference such as dyslexia?

The main difference between a struggling learner and a learner with a diagnosis of a learning difference is that the latter has been formally assessed and diagnosed with a specific learning difference, such as Dyslexia, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) etc. This diagnosis typically involves a comprehensive evaluation by a qualified Specialist or Educational Psychologist, who uses standardised tests and assessments to identify the student's strengths and weaknesses in various areas of learning.

A diagnosis of a learning difference highlights the underlying deficits that result in the challenges experienced by the individuals which then allows for targeted interventions and accommodations that are tailored to the student's specific needs and challenges. These may include specialised programmes, assistive technologies, individualised education plans, or classroom accommodations, such as extra time on tests or modified assignments.





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In contrast, a struggling learner may exhibit similar difficulties in learning but has not yet been formally diagnosed with a specific learning difference or disability, or does not meet the full criteria for a diagnosis but is still having difficulties in learning. Struggling learners can benefit from targeted interventions and support, such as specialist tutoring, and small-group instruction learning programmes such as the Main Literacy Programme, but their needs and challenges may be less clearly defined than those of students with a formal diagnosis. Therefore DAS defines “struggling learners” as:

Struggling learners are students who encounter difficulties in their learning journey for various reasons, such as a lack of foundational knowledge or skills, executive functioning challenges, attention and focus issues, and emotional and behavioural difficulties.

These students may have a diagnosis of a learning difference, may not be formally diagnosed or do not meet all criteria for a diagnosis but require additional support to reach their full potential.

What types of services does DAS offer for struggling learners?

DAS offers a range of services for struggling learners, including specialised educational programmes and assessments tailored to meet each student's unique needs. These services are designed to help struggling learners improve their academic skills, build confidence, and succeed in school and beyond.

Who is eligible for DAS services for struggling learners?

DAS services for struggling learners are available to any student who is experiencing difficulties with learning, regardless of whether they have received a formal diagnosis of a learning difference.

Before being accepted into our programmes, students are required to sit for a profiling test. This test will surface their learning needs and challenges and will help DAS to place the student into an appropriate class.

Upon receipt of the enrolment application, our staff will be in direct consultation with parents to explore how their child can be supported at DAS. Once they have been accepted into the appropriate programmes, they will need to commit to at least one term of lessons. If further investigation is then required, we may recommend additional screening or assessments to ensure that your child receives timely and appropriate intervention.



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Are there any age restrictions or limitations for DAS services for struggling learners?

DAS services for struggling learners are available to students of all ages, from preschool through adulthood with variations from programme to programme. Connect with us and we can discuss what is available for you.

What is the DAS approach to instruction for its students?

At DAS, we provide a comprehensive approach to supporting struggling learners, including



Individualised Assessment: We conduct thorough assessments to identify the specific needs and challenges of each student.



Multisensory Teaching: We use multisensory teaching techniques to engage students with different learning styles, making learning more accessible, effective, and enjoyable.



Structured Intervention: Our structured intervention programmes are designed to provide targeted support that addresses each student's individual needs.



Experienced Educators: Our educators are experienced in working with struggling learners and are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to provide effective support.



Holistic Support: We recognise that students face a range of challenges that impact their ability to learn, and we provide holistic support that addresses these challenges and aims to instil a love of learning especially when many of these learners do not enjoy being in an educational setting.

By combining these approaches, we can provide struggling learners with the support they need to achieve their full potential.

How long does it typically take for a child to see progress with DAS services for struggling learners?

The length of time it takes for a struggling learner to see progress with DAS services can vary depending on the individual student and the specific challenges they are facing. However, we work closely with each student to set achievable goals and monitor their progress regularly to ensure they are making meaningful strides forward.



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Can parents be involved in the learning process and receive feedback on their child's progress?

Yes, parents are an important part of the learning process at DAS. We believe that parents play a vital role in supporting their child's learning and development, and we provide regular feedback and updates on their child's progress to ensure they are fully informed and involved in the process.

How can parents get started with accessing DAS services for their struggling learners?

Parents can get started with accessing DAS services for their struggling learners by contacting our team to schedule an initial consultation.

Please complete this form: [I.lead.me/STRUGGLE](https://lead.me/STRUGGLE)

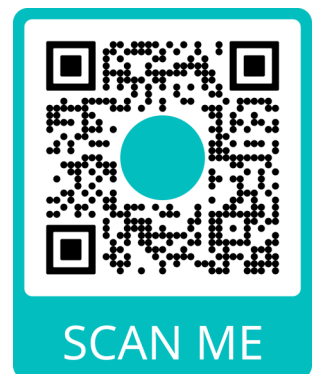
During this consultation, we will discuss the student's needs and determine the best course of action to support their learning and development

Are there any costs associated with DAS services for struggling learners, and are there any financial assistance options available?

There are costs associated with DAS services for struggling learners and the programme fees can be found here: [PROGRAMME FEES](#)

Financial Assistance: Financial assistance is only available to students who have a diagnosis of dyslexia, are Singaporean and studying in a MOE school.

Our team can provide more information for families to navigate the process of accessing funding for assessment services. Currently, DAS needs more funds to support our bursary fund to provide financial assistance to students without a diagnosis.



FIND OUT MORE:

[I.lead.me/STRUGGLE](https://lead.me/STRUGGLE)

info@das.org.sg



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CHECKLIST DOES YOUR CHILD STRUGGLE TO LEARN? HERE IS A CHECKLIST THAT MAY HELP YOU TO DECIDE IF THEY NEED SUPPORT.

DOES YOUR CHILD...

(Tick the box for any questions that might apply to your child)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Struggle with spelling, grammar or writing?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have difficulty with math or problem-solving?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have difficulty with reading and reading comprehension?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have trouble keeping up with their schoolwork, despite their best efforts?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Find it challenging to remember information they have previously learned?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have difficulty in understanding or completing homework assignments?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have challenges in staying organised and planning their time?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Find writing task challenging and don't know where to start?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have emotional or behavioural challenges that impact on their learning?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Frequently express frustration or negative feelings about their schoolwork?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have difficulty expressing themselves clearly or understanding others?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have trouble regulating emotions, such as getting upset or frustrated easily?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have difficulty with social interaction or making friends?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tells you he/she does not want to go to school?

HAS YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER MENTIONED TO YOU THAT YOUR CHILD:

(Tick the box for any questions that might apply to your child)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Does not hand in homework on time or at all?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is unable to demonstrate their knowledge into written work
<input type="checkbox"/>	Has poor academic progress in relation to his/her peers?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Has trouble paying attention or staying focused in class?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Has trouble following instructions?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is not enjoying school?

If you have concerns about your child's learning based on your observations and response to this checklist, we encourage you to reach out to DAS to learn more about how we can support your child's learning needs.

