



# NEWSLETTER

## Special Education as Career

One in 5 students or 10-15% of school children have a learning difficulty, and Dyslexia is the most common among them. It should be understood that Dyslexia usually co-exists with other learning difficulties (ADD, ADHD, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia, Dysgraphia) under an umbrella commonly referred to as learning difficulty (LD).

We must also understand that Dyslexia is not a “disease” that can be “cured” with medication, but a neurological condition in which the brain is “wired” differently. Therefore, a “cure” so to speak is - early intervention. Since Dyslexia is a difficulty in language processing the first people to spot it are school teachers, especially primary school teachers.

So, school teachers must be equipped to identify children struggling with academics. Once the child’s difficulty is identified Special Education teachers provide remedial intervention to help the child cope in school.

It is ideal that such remedial intervention happens in the school premises itself. More and more mainstream schools are opting to run remedial centres in their schools. Such schools need trained special education teachers. Madras Dyslexia Association offers two primary services in this area: 1) Teacher Training Programmes 2) Set up Resource Rooms (Remedial Centres) in schools. If a school has a large number of teachers to train, the training programme can be tailored to their needs.

Let’s strive together to build a dyslexia friendly community.

**Anil Srinivasan** contributes an in-depth article about ‘Music as Medicine’ and the impact of music on the developing brain. You can listen to Kamalāsana: Anil Srinivasan collaborates with Sikkil Gurucharan and Thomas Marlin here:



[YouTube](#) [Kamalāsana](#)

The Editors

## MDA offers Special Education Teacher Training Programmes



“I have been following the work each one of you at MDA has been involved with for over a decade now. I have been in awe of the dedicated service of senior leaders and teachers and have loved the way in which quality standards have been maintained.” This is feedback from a renowned educationist after attending one of our training programmes.

MDA’s vision is to create a “Dyslexia Sensitive” society which identifies and nurtures children with Dyslexia to reach their potential. One of the many ways of fulfilling this vision has been training people to teach children the right way!

Training programme by Dr Sunita Sodhi of Educare, New Delhi, in April 1992 was the very first activity of MDA after its inception in the year 1991. Now after nearly 25 years, around 950 teachers have completed the intensive training to learn remedial methodologies of teaching children with Dyslexia. More than 500 teachers from mainstream schools have attended the shorter training programmes to know how to deal with such children in classrooms.