

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)
Division/Branch	Chinese Programme, SES Division

Receive training to become a specialist professional - to provide educational therapy in the Chinese language and help shape the lives of children with dyslexia and help them to achieve their potential in life by giving them the necessary guidance and support.

The Educational Therapist (Chinese) is expected to provide educational therapy in the Chinese language and take on responsibilities in the Chinese Team.

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 (<http://www.ses.org.sg/>) currently has an enrolment of more than 200 students and has supported more than 500 students over the years

The duties and responsibilities of DAS Educational Therapists (Chinese) includes

- Providing intervention in the Chinese language in a small group setting
- Profiling students for classes
- Participating in research to evaluate the effectiveness of the programme
- Developing an intervention curriculum
- Undergoing continued training to enhance teaching practices and receive other relevant training as required
- Any other duties as assigned

OTHER AREAS OF INVOLVEMENT

Educational Therapists (Chinese) are also actively involved in conducting awareness talks and training courses. These activities are conducted at DAS centres, national libraries, community centres and MOE schools. Educational Therapists (Chinese) are also encouraged to participate in research projects. As a not-for-profit organisation, all DAS staff are expected to take part in fundraising activities as and when required.

SPONSORED TRAINING

The DAS places great emphasis on providing a professional service. To help Educational Therapists (Chinese) develop as a teacher of children with dyslexia, they will undergo 1.5 weeks of lectures alongside a teaching practicum. As they commence teaching, they will at the same time undergo a six-month mentoring programme which will form part of the Specialist Diploma in Educational Therapy (Chinese) that they will be pursuing. Educational Therapists (Chinese) would also be required to sit for a HSK Chinese Language Proficiency Examination.

As part of their continuous professional development, Educational Therapists (Chinese) are required to undertake a postgraduate certificate in Special Educational Needs (PGC SEN) during their contract term.

We encourage all Educational Therapists to explore and we will support relevant further professional development thereafter.

3-YEAR BOND

In view of the investment in our Educational Therapists (Chinese), they are required to sign an initial 3-year bond. The above training will be conducted during the bond period. If the Educational Therapist (Chinese) is not able to fulfil the bond obligations, compensation to the DAS is required. Educational Therapists (Chinese) will be required to sign bond extensions if they are recommended and agree to attend further training (beyond the PGC SEN).

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 (4 week nights per week)

		and weekends (Saturdays or Sundays).
WORKING HOURS		
<p>All DAS staff work 44 hours a week. As the majority of our students attend mainstream schools, 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.</p> <p>Please note that the above timings may change in the future if client demand so dictates.</p>		
WORK VENUE		
<p>Successful candidates 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. They need to go where the children are!</p>		
SALARY AND BENEFITS		
<p>Successful candidates will receive a competitive starting salary of S\$2,830 per month. Those with good and relevant honours degrees may receive a starting salary of up to S\$3,140. After probation and upon meeting the necessary eligibility criteria (if any), they will also receive an annual wage supplement, performance bonus, and other benefits. Staff will be entitled to medical benefits while on probation. Educational Therapists enjoy up to 6.5 weeks of school holidays.</p> <p>Upon completion of relevant postgraduate qualifications, and with at least three years experience in supporting children with dyslexia and making significant additional contributions to the work of the DAS, Educational Therapists (Chinese) will be eligible to apply for promotion to the next salary scale which starts at S\$3,580 per month.</p> <p>The DAS also awards responsibility allowances, training incentives and sponsorship to deserving staff.</p>		
OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN THE REGISTER OF EDUCATIONAL THERAPIST (ASIA) [RETA]		
<p>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.</p>		
APPLICATION DETAILS		
<p>All interested applicants are to submit the following as part of their application</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DAS Employment Application Form, duly completed (form can be downloaded from the Careers page of our website) 2. Resume <p>Email the above submissions to jobs@das.org.sg by 14 April 2019. Only complete applications (with the above 2 items) will be considered.</p> <p>Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Selected candidates must be able to start work on 17 June 2019.</p>		