# Understanding and Overcoming Literacy Difficulties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For what age?</th>
<th>At what level?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary and secondary phase</td>
<td>For staff who work with and support children and young people experiencing literacy difficulties</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Why does literacy matter?
- Literacy is a key to accessing the curriculum for all subjects;
- Literacy is also an essential life skill for accessing information (e.g. from the internet) and communication (e.g. emails, texts);
- Parents and teachers are understandably concerned when children do not make expected progress in acquiring literacy skills;
- There is widespread confusion in the education community and broader society about identification, assessment and intervention regarding specific learning difficulties (dyslexia);
- Poor literacy skills correlate with negative life experiences such as unemployment and imprisonment.

## How will this training help children and young people?
Based upon research and evidence, this training explores the following questions:
- How do children learn to read, write and spell?
- What skills do children and young people require in order to develop functional literacy?
- How can children and young people experiencing literacy difficulties be assessed?
- What are the characteristics of effective intervention?

It also provides delegates with an opportunity to discuss and share good practice with each other.

## What do teachers say?
- I have a better understanding of how to move children through the stages of literacy.

Cutting through the confusion about dyslexia helps me talk to parents.

## Children experiencing difficulties in literacy need to be supported by staff who:
- Have a clear understanding of how children learn to read;
- Competent in identifying a child’s strengths, needs, and potential barriers to learning to read, write and spell;
- Understand the features of effective, evidence-based literacy interventions;
- Are appropriately trained to manage and deliver interventions for individuals and small groups.

## Where can I access training?
To access centralised training for this course, including the TaMHS Conference if appropriate, please visit: [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/tamhs](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/tamhs)

Training at your school, or within clusters, for your staff can be commissioned from the Educational Psychology Service by contacting the TaMHS Administrator: [tamhs@childrenfirstnorthamptonshire.co.uk](mailto:tamhs@childrenfirstnorthamptonshire.co.uk) or by speaking to your Link Educational Psychologist.