



SEND Specialist Advice and Support (SEND SAS) Cognition and Learning (Specific Learning Difficulties - SpLD)



Cognition and Learning Team Advice and Training offer for schools/settings

The Cognition and Learning Team

As a Specialist Advisory and Training service, our role is to develop schools' capacity to support their pupils with persistent literacy and maths difficulties. The team hold Post Graduate Level 7 qualifications in teaching and assessing pupils with Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD). Our approaches are aligned with the National Curriculum, The White Paper, SEND Reforms, DFE and OFSTED requirements.

Our support is now **free** to all Hertfordshire schools

Cognition and Learning Team Offer 2026-2027

Team offer	Duration
Scheduled training courses in venues across county	2hr - 2hr 30
Senco Advice Session (in school or online)	Approximately 1 hour

Cognition and Learning Team Training Courses

Schools can access regular training courses across Hertfordshire in a variety of locations which will be advertised via the SEND ACADEMY and email. Schools can book up to two people per course.

These include:

- **Phonological Awareness** – Learn why phonological awareness is vital for developing secure phonic knowledge for reading and spelling. Gain a new tool to help you assess and teach phonological awareness in your setting.

- **Whizzy's Words** – A Phase 2 phonic intervention for pupils in Years 1-3 who are not yet blending or segmenting sounds in consonant-vowel-consonant words.
- **Forward with Phonics** – A Phase 3 - 5 phonic intervention for pupils from Year 2 upwards who have not made progress despite catch up using the school's systematic synthetic phonics programme.
- **Assessing and Teaching Reading** – Learn how to informally assess reading and deliver effective, well-structured reading sessions.
- **Inference Detectives** – An intervention targeted at pupils who can decode at Year 3 to 4 level but struggle to make inferences when reading.
- **Strategies for Children with Writing Difficulties** – Provides a toolkit of ideas, strategies and resources for primary school staff to use when supporting those at the early stages of writing.
- **Multisensory Spelling Strategies** – Learn how to assess and teach the spelling of common exception words using practical strategies.
- **Diagnostic Literacy Assessments** – Learn how to use informal literacy assessments to analyse findings, identify what to teach and how to review and plan next steps.
- **Persistent Literacy Difficulties** – Learn how to assess and identify pupils who may have persistent literacy difficulties by better understanding cognitive needs.
- **UCAN (revised)** – An assessment and intervention which targets ***Reception to Year 4*** number objectives and focuses upon counting, place value, all four number operations, fractions and decimals.
- **Understanding Memory** – This training explores different types of memory and includes how to identify signs of working memory difficulties and practical strategies and approaches to support pupils in the classroom.

*****New courses are under development****

SENCo Advice Session

These new advice sessions are for SENCOs and their team who are supporting pupils with persistent literacy and/or maths difficulties. The session can be delivered online or face to face. All advice will be given verbally. An initial telephone call will be arranged to discuss school's request and to agree content.

School can access up to 3 SENCo advice sessions across the year.

These advice sessions could include:

- Sharing of informal and formal assessments for literacy **or** maths
- Support to analyse assessments that have already been carried out and advice on suitable next steps
- Un-named pupil advice
- Advice and support for developing phonological awareness skills
- Advice and support for cognitive skills such as processing and working memory

- Advice for improving phonic spelling and/or CEW spelling
- Advice and support for developing reading skills
- Advice and support for early writing
- Advice for early maths difficulties
- Advice for Ordinarily Available Provision/ Reasonable Adjustments
- Joint observation of a small group intervention session to offer additional strategies to aid teaching
- Support for interpreting anonymised private SpLD/Dyslexia reports
- Support session with school staff who have previously attended our training

***SENCo advice sessions are designed to enable schools to best support their pupils.
Any advice shared cannot be used as evidence for any referrals or applications.***

For further information please contact The Cognition and Learning Team

CognitionandLearningTeam@hertfordshire.gov.uk

