

Language Development School

Information for Schools, 2002

Do you have a student who compared to the other children in your class:

- Has difficulty following instructions
- Has difficulty answering questions and explaining answers
- Has difficulty telling a sequence of events e.g. news telling, recounting an event
- Has difficulty describing an object/ person/ picture e.g. only labels object instead of telling you what it feels like
- Uses immature sentences for age e.g. short sentences, errors in grammar
- Has a limited vocabulary e.g. misnames objects/pictures or uses non-specific words like "stuff", "thing"
- Has difficulty initiating or maintaining the topic of conversation
- Has difficulty with early literacy skills i.e. awareness of sounds in spoken words e.g. rhyming, clapping out syllables (appropriate skills will depend on age/year level)

If so, the student may be an appropriate candidate for placement in a Language Development School (L05).

Important Points to Remember

- Children suitable for an LOS generally have difficulties in more than one of the above areas.
- The child may or may not also have difficulties with articulation / pronunciation.
- Skills in other areas (e.g. doing puzzles, cutting, maths, sport) may be appropriate for their age.

LOS's cater for kindergarten, pre-primary and primary school aged children (Yrs K-4) with a significant language difficulty affecting their academic and social performance. LOS's provide specialised language and academic intervention on an individual and small group basis. Generally an LOS class consists of 12 students with the major emphasis on oral language and literacy development. It is situated on the same site as a mainstream school resulting in cooperative sharing of resources and teacher expertise as well as providing

opportunities for LOS students to integrate into the mainstream school. The aim is to exit students back into their mainstream school ASAP and length of time at the LOS is dependent on the student needs.

Students who obtain a position within the LOS will attend either the Peel Language Development School co-located on the Rockingham Lakes Primary School site or in the Mandurah Primary School satellite class.

In order to gain entry into the LOS children need to be assessed by both a Speech Pathologist and School Psychologist. The School Psychologist will need to confirm that the student has average intelligence. These assessments will take a significant amount of time to complete. As a result of time constraints within the Peel District a deadline for LOS referrals has been set. This will enable all necessary assessments as well as liaison between the services to be completed before applications are due by the Peel Language Development School placement committee.

If you have identified a student who you believe may be an appropriate LOS referral you should contact your School Psychologist by 31st May 2002. Applications MAY NOT be considered after this date. If you have not already done so, you also need to refer the child for a Speech Pathology Assessment.

If you have any further queries please contact Susan Graham at Peel District Education Office on 95502555.