

## Learning Differences and Inclusion in Language Teaching



### Overview and Outcomes

This course will support you in the inclusive classroom by helping you to understand the main specific learning differences you are likely to see in your classes. It will equip you with a toolbox of activities, resources and techniques that can help break down barriers to learning a language and allow all students to engage in their learning.

You will examine the typical challenges faced by learners with these learning differences and how being neurodiverse can cause barriers to learning, such as how it can affect how we process information. You will explore solutions you can use to overcome learning difficulties, by examining some proven teaching strategies to help students, including multisensory learning techniques.

### Trainers

NILE's highly experienced trainers are experts, not only in their fields, but also in working online with teachers for continuing professional development. Read more about NILE's trainers, their experience and interests at [The NILE Team](#) on the [NILE website](#).

### Teaching approaches

- We make courses practical and 'hands-on', with reference to relevant theory
- Our courses are participant-centred and collaborative, designed to build knowledge and confidence
- We use activities and tasks to help you apply the course content to your setting
- Courses are broken down into individual units and activities, forming a clear structure.
- Tasks are interactive, involving live online sessions, forums and other collaborative tools, and utilise a range of multimedia including images, audio files and videos.

### Assessment and Certification

- NILE Online Certificate courses have a four-week assignment-writing period at the end of the taught part of the course. It is the only assessed part of the course and is optional. You can complete an assignment if you have achieved the required 80% participation on the course. The assignment is a further chance for you to apply what you have learnt on the course to your professional context.
- Your end-of-course NILE certificate details the areas covered on your course and includes your assignment grade (Pass or Distinction) where relevant.

### Who should apply?

- English language teachers wanting to learn more about how to support learners of all ages with learning differences
- Participants should have a minimum language level corresponding to B2 on the Common European Framework.

### Requirements and Resources

- Participants need a computer, a headset (with microphone) and an Internet connection. You can do much of the course on a tablet or mobile device, but will need a computer for certain activities.
- All participants have access to NILE's extensive ELT e-Library and the NILE digital learning platform during the course and for a further six months, to access materials and keep in touch with your new colleagues. We also encourage you to sign up to the NILE Membership platform, which provides a great range of free resources for ELT professionals and is updated monthly.

### Content

*Learning Differences and Inclusion in Language Teaching* covers the following areas:

- Key terminology used in the field of SEND and inclusion
- Understanding specific learning differences, including dyslexia, dyscalculia, dyspraxia, ADHD, autism and other learning needs
- Key strategies and techniques to support learners with SpLDs, including multi-sensory learning, graphic facilitation and drama
- Educational concepts such as learning styles and Bloom's taxonomy in the teaching of learners with SpLDs
- Strategies to support the development of all four language skills
- Strategies for teaching vocabulary, grammar and spelling to learners with SpLDs
- Accessibility in teaching and learning
- Focus on assessment for learners with additional needs
- Mental health issues and strategies to support learning for these learners

Each course has a maximum of 18 participants and consists of 8 units, each introduced and completed over a week, Thursday to Wednesday, with an optional 4-week NILE Online assignment or 8-week Trinity College London assignment at the end.

Time will be built into the course for reflection, to consider how to adapt the content to your own professional context.

The NILE Online platform was developed specifically for teacher development courses, and upholds the NILE tradition of excellence in tutoring, materials, support and engagement.

## Schedule

This course consists of 8 units, plus an optional end-of-course assignment. Each unit requires approximately 5-7 hours work per week. Live sessions will be held at a time agreed with participants, and recorded for those who cannot attend.

Learning Differences and Inclusion in Language Teaching	
<b>Unit 1: Orientation and introductions</b>	<b>Unit 2: Understanding Neurodiversity 1</b>
In this unit, you will meet your tutor and your course peers, and you will get an introduction to NILE and the course contents. You will then become familiar with the online platform you will be using on the course and consider some guidelines for working effectively online. Finally, you will participate in a sharing session to share your experiences of learning differences.	This unit is an introduction to understanding neurodiversity. You will look at key terminology, the relevance of learning styles for learners with learning differences, and neurodiversity needs such as dyslexia and Irlen Syndrome.
<b>Unit 3: Understanding Neurodiversity 2: ASD, ADHD and making lessons engaging</b>	<b>Unit 4: Understanding Neurodiversity 3: Dyscalculia, dyspraxia, teaching reading and grammar</b>
This unit is about two common learning differences: Autism and ADHD, focussing on the main characteristics and symptoms, as well as strategies the teacher can put in place to assist the learner. You will also look at the importance of contextualisation of resources, and strategies to learn new vocabulary.	In this unit, you will examine two further learning differences: dyscalculia and dyspraxia, looking at key features and difficulties to language acquisition that may be unexpected. You will then explore some teaching strategies to support the development of the core skills of reading and of grammar.
<b>Unit 5: Writing, multisensory learning and assessment</b>	<b>Unit 6: Learning differences: thinking outside the box</b>
In this unit, you will focus on assisting your students to develop their core skills of writing and spelling. You will explore how a range of multisensory activities can enhance language learning. Finally, you will examine some of the core methods of assessment and focus on any additional measures that might be needed for students with learning differences.	In this unit, you will focus on other, non-traditional methods of delivering language learning content. This unit will look at how songs and drama can be used in a variety of ways to help learners with learning differences, and will explore different ways to promote the practice of all four skills areas.
<b>Unit 7: Learning theories and mental health for students with learning differences</b>	<b>Unit 8: Course review and assignment preview</b>
In this unit, you will look at some of the most common theories about how we learn, and reflect on how these common theories relate to those students with learning differences. You will then look at trauma in the classroom and reflect on how mental health issues, so common among certain groups of people with neurodiversity, can affect language learning.	In this unit, you will review the course and create an action plan for your future professional development in the area of teaching students with learning differences. You will then take a look at the end-of-course assignments and have a chance to evaluate the course.
<b>Assignment</b>	
<b>Option A</b>	<b>Option B</b>
Design an original teaching resource or activity that can help a student with a learning difference, with a set of teacher's notes.	Design a lesson plan of 60 to 90 minutes for an aspect of the course that you would like to try out with a specific group of learners in your school or college.

At NILE we are committed to offering the best in language teacher training. As such, NILE Online courses were developed specifically to recreate the classroom experience and thus, we provide two-way tutorial contact in our online courses. Online participants will benefit from tutor interaction, support and feedback in each unit they take.

NILE Online is the first online course provider aligned to the Cambridge English Teaching Framework. NILE Online courses are also formally aligned to the Equals Framework for Language Teacher Training and Development, and the effort we take to make the NILE Online experience both positive and productive has been recognised by inspections from AQUEDUTO, The Association for Quality Education and Training Online.