

Speech Pathology – Autism & Disability Consultancy Services in Schools

Students with disabilities frequently find the school environment to be the most challenging of all settings. This is because there are numerous factors associated with the school environment that students with disabilities perceive they do not yet have the required skills to respond to. Common examples include:

- Being asked to do tasks that they perceive to be difficult or that they are not interested in.
- Difficulty interacting socially with the other students and forming friendships.
- Difficulty understanding and responding to actions of other students, such as not following the rules and not allowing the person with a disability to go first or choose the game to be played.
- Sensory factors associated with the classroom and other settings within the school.
- Not being able to easily determine how long tasks such as waiting, mat time and class work will last.
- Change of routine and inconsistency within their day.
- Not knowing what to expect throughout the day.
- Transitioning between different parts of the day.

Fab Behavior Specialist Centre is offering a service to upskill and equip schools to support students with autism and other disabilities. This service supports the teachers to understand and respond to the needs of their students within the school, as well as training and coaching them to be able to understand and support students with disabilities and unwanted/non-preferred behaviours ongoingly.

Our aim in providing this service is to support schools with the skills to see true and lasting changes in the ability of their students with disabilities to participate and succeed in the school environment. Our aim is to make our job redundant – that is, to upskill school staff to feel equipped to understand and support students with disabilities, both now and into the future.

The Model

Fab will work closely with schools to design a service that is tailored specifically to their needs. The service can include:

- An initial meeting with key staff members to determine the specific needs of the school and students identified.
- Meetings for each student identified for support by their classroom teacher and parents – to gather information, offer recommendations and make plans for how to support them in the classroom and in the development of key skills.
- Assessment and observation of the students in the classroom.
- Practical and specifically tailored professional development sessions for school staff.
- 1:1 or group coaching for staff in the development of key skills for understanding and working with students with additional needs.
- Supporting school staff to establish sustainable programs, such as lunchtime modules for those who struggle with social interactions and effective social and group skill programs to build essential skills for the classroom.
- Training teacher's aides in how to work with students in a way that supports their independence and skill development.

This service can extend over a longer period of time, with monthly visits to support staff in the implementation of plans made for students and reviewing and refining the skills taught in the coaching and professional development sessions.

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Costs

The cost of this service is determined based on the specific requirements of the school – *please contact Fabic reception to request a quote.*

Days/Times

To be arranged in consultation with the school.

Meet Kathryn — *Our Lead Speech Pathologist*

Kathryn Maroney is the lead speech pathologist at Fabic. Kathryn has extensive experience working in the field of disability and the general practice of speech pathology. Kathryn has worked in private practice, schools, community health and the not for profit sector. It has been her absolute pleasure to offer speech pathology services for Fabic since 2014.



Further information about Kathryn is available at
www.fabic.com.au/about-us/kathryn-maroney

For more information about the Autism and Disability Consultant services on offer at Fabic or to book an appointment, please contact Fabic by phone on (07) 5530 5099 or email at info@fabic.com.au

