

## Speech Pathology — Classroom, School & Learning Support Services

Many children and teenagers find the classroom and the school environment challenging – some more obviously so than others. There can be a range of different reasons why a person may not learn or participate easily in the school setting and tasks including, but not limited to:

- Having difficulties with the skills required for working through tasks independently.
- Having difficulties with the organisation skills required for keeping track of personal materials, due dates and completing assignments.
- Having difficulty processing spoken speech, especially when the person needs to manage distractions and background noise.
- Having difficulty interpreting and responding to moment-to-moment occurrences and changes within the school environment.
- Having difficulty determining how long a task or period of time is likely to last for.
- Becoming anxious when presented with a task they perceive to be difficult.
- Having difficulty transitioning successfully between different tasks and parts of the day.
- Having difficulty participating successfully in less structured parts of the day, such as free time or breaktimes.
- Having difficulty participating in tasks that they do not enjoy.
- Having difficulty adapting to changes of expectations and routines.

... to name but a few.

*Sometimes it is not obvious which aspect/s of school the student is having difficulty with. This may come out in their behaviours at school or they may show no signs of difficulty at school but have a meltdown when they get home – releasing the anxiety they have been holding on to all day.*

Once the specific aspects of school and learning that a student is finding challenging have been identified, there are typically numerous practical adjustments and supports that can be introduced to help them participate more easily and successfully in the school setting and significantly reduce their anxiety and the use of any unwanted behaviours. In addition, the student can be taught foundational skills so that, longer-term, they have the ability to participate successfully in settings and tasks with similar requirements.

### Classroom, School & Learning Supports at Fabic

At Fabic we offer support to help schools and families identify the aspects of the school setting that a person may be finding challenging and which they perceive they do not yet have the required skills to respond to. This is typically through an interview with the student's parents and teachers and meeting with the student themselves, in addition to observing him or her in the school environment.



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Following this assessment, a meeting can be organised with the school, family and any other stakeholders to present an understanding of:

1. *the aspects of the school setting that the person is having difficulty with*
2. *which foundational skills they will need support to develop and*
3. *what adjustments and tools could be introduced to support their participation in the school setting.*

These findings and recommendations can also be documented in a report if required. If needed, follow up meetings and/or staff training can also be organised to assist the school in supporting the student.

This service is open to schools on the Gold Coast, in Brisbane, Lismore, Beaudesert and, where possible, also schools outside of these areas. There is also scope for these services to be partially offered via Zoom or Skype.

### 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](http://www.fabic.com.au/about-us/kathryn-maroney)

For more information about the classroom, school and learning 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](mailto:info@fabic.com.au)

