



ADA offer accreditation to schools, universities and others who offer evidence based teaching and learning programs that align with the ADA and IDA's international standards on the teaching of reading and literacy.

What is an ADA accredited school?

A school that has one or more ADA Associate members on staff (AMADA).

What does AMADA stand for?

Associate Member of the Australian Dyslexia Association (MSL Accredited).

What professional development training has an AMADA had?

An AMADA has successfully completed an extensive course in an evidence based language and literacy approach such as Multisensory Structured Language (MSL). MSL is based on the golden standard approach Orton Gillingham also known by the IDA as Structured Literacy. There are important principles of instruction embedded within MSL approaches (code based and synthetic) that meet the National Reading Panel. The Rose Report, the National Inquiry into the Teaching of Literacy and the Australian Dyslexia Working Party Document.

What are AMADA's in schools trained to provide?

An AMADA is a valuable addition to any mainstream school who is wanting to seek up skilling and professional development in language and literacy for all children regardless of the underlying cause. At present most AMADA's are early grade teachers (or support teachers) in schools. An ADA accredited school knows the importance of offering effective whole class language and literacy instruction. This approach can easily be tied to a response to intervention (ADA model).

AMADA's are trained and accredited in MSL and have developed expertise in the following areas:

Identifying struggling readers including those with dyslexia

The importance of developing oral language skills particularly with a focus on **phonological and phonemic awareness**

How to teach the structure of the English Language (**that is code based**) and why it is important to teach the **alphabetical principle** alongside phonological and phonemic awareness and not as two separate skills

How to teach **reading and spelling skills directly and explicitly** and why this is the most effective way to teach all children how to read, spell and write

Why spelling (**encoding**) needs to be taught alongside **decoding** (reading) and not as two separate skills

Multisensory instruction and the importance of using all three learning channels (Visual-Auditory-Kinesthetic) for maximum learning and optimum memory strengthening

Ample practice of skills (review) for all children so that they have time to consolidate a skill prior to moving on

Teach **vocabulary** and understand why it is vital. Vocabulary increases a student's ability to make meaning

Comprehension is the key to understanding what we read.

ADA accredited schools are aware of the importance of **listening comprehension** verse "**reading comprehension**" since many students who struggle to read also struggle to comprehend what they have read due to poor decoding skills. These **poor decoding skills** appear to stem from a weakness in the **phonological component of language** (Torgesen, Adams).

A Whole School Approach is required:

ADA Accredited Schools are able to be self sufficient in the delivery of internal professional school development for the whole school staff. Every AMADA in an Australian school liaises with the ADA for the most recent up to date scientific and educational research in the areas of literacy prevention/intervention, inclusive whole class approaches and equitable modifications for suitable students with language based differences. AMADA's are required to attend ongoing professional development with the ADA in order to maintain yearly MSL accreditation standards.

Robina State School (QLD):

Robina State School has been identified as the first Australian ADA accredited school. This school is currently working towards ongoing goals for all early years teachers to become AMADA's. There are other schools in NSW and Victoria who are close to accreditation. The ADA have a number of teachers (2014) working on becoming AMADA's and a majority of these are in schools. It takes time to become an ADA accredited school since there are no quick fixes.

National and International Teacher Training Standards:

MSL accredited professional development training course outcomes have been referenced to the Australian Professional Teaching Standards (APTS) for yearly PD requirements.

ADA is partnered with the IDA. See IDA Teaching Standards: [Click here](#)

For further information on MSL in Australia please contact the ADA's training and service provider Institute for Multisensory Language Education: imsl.education@gmail.com