

Learning Differences Aotearoa Trust Staff

Chris Cole – Learning Differences Advisor

Manages or volunteers for the programmes, Dyslexia Support South, Adult Dyslexia Support Group, Growing Stars, Dyslexia Download that are run by Learning Differences Aotearoa Trust. Chris also is a neurodiversity coach with her own business, Unique Minds and a facilitator for the Dyslexia Friendly Quality Mark. In all her roles she provides support to parents, children, adults and organisations with understanding and information on learning differences. This includes providing professional development workshops for schools and organisations on understanding and managing learning differences.

Chris is also an author of the book “All a Part of Me” about the emotional impact of a learning difficulty and used for the Growing Stars programme.

Qualifications: Bachelor of Commerce, SPELD Certificate in Specific Learning Disabilities (Level 5) and the National Certificate in Adult Literacy & Numeracy Education, Vocational (Level 5)

“I am on the dyslexic spectrum myself and a mother of four boys, two of whom have been diagnosed with dyslexia, Irlen's Syndrome and Auditory Processing Disorder.”

Skills: Empathy and a unique insight to the difficulties faced by these learners, having ‘been’ there I can support adults, parents, caregivers and children and advise Educators about ‘specific learning difference’s’.

Co-founding member of what was ‘Learning with Difficulties’ support group in 2010. Now operating as Dyslexia Support South.

Philippa Christie – Programme Co-ordinator.

Philippa works part time for the Trust, and is responsible for keeping all the programmes running smoothly and the website and social media up to date.

Alongside her role with the Trust, she also works part time as a primary school librarian, and enjoys sharing her love of books and reading with children.

She has a varied skill set and work background, and has qualifications in Journalism, Veterinary Nursing, and Horticulture. After working eleven years for a government agency, she was interested in working in the not – for- profit sector and has been with the Trust since September 2021.

Philippa still has so much to learn about learning differences, but having three children and working in a school environment, she is very aware of how unique each child is, and how they learn at different paces and in different ways. Supporting children’s mental health and wellbeing as they grow up is very important to her.