



This was the original document that can be used as a reference only to what was on DEB before 20 April 2023

WHAT WE DO RECOMMEND

There are many programmes in the market that promise quick results; this is when the term buyer beware comes in - please stay away, these are often snake oils.

We appreciate these may work for some kids, though that can be hard to ascertain without controlling for other interventions being used at the same time. This is why peer reviewed research and evidence are so important.

What you are looking for is an evidence based approach that works for all kids. We don't want parents and schools spending money on the wrong approaches and quick fixes. There is no quick fix! Trust us, if there was we would know about it and so would the rest of the world.

This is a dyslexia website and we always think about the dyslexic child first and what has been proven to work for them. Many programmes sold in New Zealand to parents and schools are not designed with dyslexic kids in mind and have no peer reviewed research or evidence behind them. Often it's someone's theory or ideology. On that note, if you see the word ideology or theory run - it's your biggest red flag it's not evidence based.

That said, we are pleased to see that things are beginning to change in New Zealand. The Science of Reading has played a huge role in this by providing us with the 'what' and the 'how' to teach children to be successful in reading. This approach is called Structured Literacy and is recommended as best practice for children with dyslexia by the International Dyslexia Association.

Structured Literacy comprises six evidence based elements and three teaching principles. To learn more go to "What is Structured Literacy?"

We have used this knowledge to help us assess a programme or an approach. Some programmes, approaches, and organisations we have looked into may either be part of Structured Literacy or they are a full Structured Literacy approach.

We can't review all approaches and programmes, so please use this list as a guide and read through the documents "Guidance for Assessing Programmes and Approaches", "Evidence Based", "What is Structured Literacy?" and "What is the Science of Reading" to help you choose a programme or approach for your child or school.

What we DO recommend

- Agility with Sound - A NZ Company that has resources and is an explicit, structured, systematic programme with decodable books
- Cracking the ABC Code – systematic synthetic phonics based multisensory programme.
- David Kilpatrick Reading for Success - Phonemic Awareness programme
- Heggerty - Phonological Awareness programme
- Institute of Multisensory Language Education MSL training and coursework based on the Orton Gillingham approach with a 12 Months Accreditation.
- Learning Matters –iDeal approach
- LETRS training on Structured Literacy.
- Little Learners Love Literacy programme – A reading programme. It is recommended to purchase Liz Kane's The Code to have a spelling component.
- Liz Kane Literacy – The Code is a Scope and Sequence.
- MultiLit, MiniLit, and MacqLit from Macquarie University in Sydney are all explicit, structured, systematic phonics programmes.
- Orton Gillingham based programmes.
- Sounds Write - An explicit, structured, systematic phonics programme with resources and decodable books.
- SPIRE – based on an Orton Gillingham approach from the US
- Sound Wall by Sound Foundations for Literacy (a tool to use when explicitly teaching the 44 sounds.
- Sunshine Decodable books and Teacher Guides (Reading Programme Only) It is recommended to combine with The Code for a spelling component.
- Toe by Toe – A systematic programme for decoding (reading only)

We have also provided you with a list of **What we DON'T recommend**.