



EMAIL

From: Sharon

Sent: Thursday, 25 May 2023 9:04 am

To: Kirsty Farquharson <Kirsty.Farquharson@education.govt.nz>

Subject: Jan and Bridget saying BSLA is Structured Literacy ???

Hi Kirsty,

Can you please advise if the Better Start has been changed to address all areas of Structured Literacy since Jan Tinetti and Bridget McNeil are now calling it Structured Literacy? I would like to point out a reply from your office on 24 Oct 22 you clearly stated it is not.

"We are using the term "structured approach to literacy" to distinguish from the trademarked Structured Literacy, particularly seeing as BSLA has been developed specifically for our Aotearoa New Zealand context. With regards to the six components of Structured Literacy, the University of Canterbury states in their paper that BSLA currently includes "foundational knowledge that supports reading comprehension, text comprehension and more advanced oral language development". BSLA does not currently include explicit instruction in these areas. Please also note that The Ministry does not expect BSLA provides guidance about every aspect of classroom literacy instruction. BSLA only focuses on students in Year 0, Year 1 and Year 2. Improvements are constantly being made by the BSLA team and content may change in the future".

As I am sure you can understand this information either way is crucial as BSLA does not cover Tier 3 yet and Structured Literacy is for Tier 3 and they are not getting it in fact they are getting Reading Recovery.

I would appreciate a quick response due to the media attention this is getting. I have been in touch with a few reporters already regarding this and I know they are keen to run a story around why it's being called Structured Literacy but it's not being offered to dyslexic students since the MOE recommend it for them on their website.

Kind Regards

Sharon Scurr