LITERACY BOOST®

An evidence-based reading intervention programme

Literacy Boost® is an evidence-based multi-sensory, incremental, and code-oriented approach that effectively teaches children to read and spell. Literacy Boost® uses structured synthetic phonics instruction to help children to master the alphabet code necessary for reading and writing.

Our Literacy Boost® intervention programme is based on the science of reading, and the information we know that learning to read is essentially learning a code. This has been identified both in NZ and overseas as the most successful approach for teaching reading and spelling.

Using a synthetic phonics approach, children learn the process of linking individual speech sounds (phonemes) to written symbols (graphemes). When a child learns to read using synthetic phonics they learn to link letters to speech sounds, and then blend these sounds together to read words. Learning about the relationship between the letters of the alphabet and the sounds they represent allows children to “crack the code” and learn to both read (decode) and spell (encode) fluently.

One of the most important principles of synthetic phonics is that a child should never be expected to read something that is too difficult for them, or that they do not have the skills to read. Within the first few sessions of synthetic phonics children should be able to read words made up of the sound / letter relationships they have learnt.

A structured synthetic phonics approach is proven to be more successful than other reading approaches. Synthetic phonics explicitly teaches children how the code of reading and writing works!

Skilled readers do not need to rely on pictures or sentence context to identify words. They can read most words automatically and they have the phonics skills to decode unknown words. Guessing from contextual cues and pictures is often unsuccessful. It is time-consuming and reduces fluency and comprehension. A synthetic phonics approach teaches children to understand how words are put together, and how to go about cracking the code so that they can read ANY unknown word. This is how children become competent and independent readers and writers.

"If a child memorizes ten words, the child can read only ten words. But if a child learns the sounds of ten letters, the child will be able to read 350 three-sound words, 4320 four-sound words and 21,650 five-sound words" Dr Martin Kozloff (2002)