



LITERACY BOOST®

An evidence-based structured literacy intervention programme

Literacy Boost® is our 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.

Literacy Boost® is our structured literacy intervention programme. It 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). They then learn to 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". This is required for children to learn to read (decode), and spell (encode) fluently.



One of the most important principles of a structured synthetic phonics programme 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 spelling works!

Skilled readers do not need to rely on pictures, memory, or sentence context to identify words. They can read most words automatically because 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.

"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)

