

## Reading Intervention Programs for use at Home



Students with dyslexia or who have difficulty learning to read benefit from explicit and structured instruction in phonemic awareness and phonics (systematic, synthetic phonics) along with the other essential skills for reading (fluency, vocabulary and comprehension).

SPELD NSW recommends, if possible, that students with dyslexia or difficulties with reading work with experienced learning support teachers and/or specialist literacy tutors.

These highly trained professionals can work on all areas of difficulty in reading, spelling and writing, as well as use appropriate methods to meet the complex needs of individual students.



### Finding support for your child to learn to read

SPELD NSW maintains a Referral Database of specialist tutors and professionals who have received training in learning difficulties and evidenced based reading instruction. We can refer families to tutors and professionals from this Referral Database.

Not all families and students are able to access specialist support for students who have difficulty learning to read.

There are a number of programs available that can be used in the home environment (many of which we have included in this InfoSheet). These programs either come with explicit instructions on how to use them or are straight-forward enough that a parent or family member without specialist training can use them.

Please be aware that not all programs will work for all students and no one program will cover all aspects of literacy instruction necessary for proficient reading.



## 5 key elements of reading

It's essential children with difficulties learning to read receive evidence-based instruction focusing on the 5 key elements of reading - phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

Skills must be taught clearly, directly and systematically, starting from simple concepts and skills and moving to more complex concepts and skills.

Students should be introduced to one concept or skill at a time and given plenty of opportunities for practise and to master the concept or skill before moving on.

**"There are no universally effective programs, but there are knowable principles that need to be incorporated in all programs about how we teach written language."**

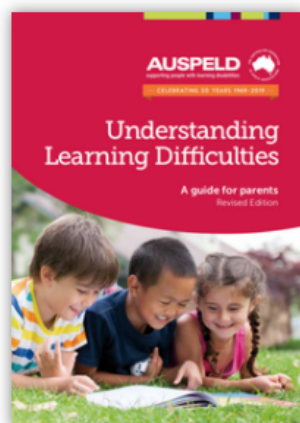
Maryanne Wolf, 2007

## More Information about Learning to Read

Visit [SPELDNSW.org.au](http://SPELDNSW.org.au) for information about reading instruction to support parents, teachers and other professionals, and schools. Parents can attend parent workshops/webinars to gain additional information and can contact the free SPELD NSW InfoLine for support, resources and information.



SPELD NSW Dyslexia InfoSheet



AUSPELD Understanding Learning Difficulties: A Guide for parents



Reading Rockets research information and resources



Five from Five information, research and resources

# Reading Intervention Programs for use at Home

## BARTON READING AND SPELLING

- [Barton](#) is designed to be used at home by parents (it is also used by schools and tutors).
- Multiple levels and students use pencil and paper and the provided letter tiles to complete each lesson.
- Comprehensive and structured; based on an Orton-Gillingham approach. Lessons are fully scripted and parents are provided with training videos to assist with the delivery of the program.
- Can be purchased second-hand. The program is American so some spelling needs to be adapted.

## BEAT DYSLEXIA

- An explicit, systematic and structured phonics reading program.
- The Beat Dyslexia series of books is available from Dyslexia SPELD Foundation of WA.

## CRACKING THE ABC CODE

- Written by Australian specialist dyslexia teacher and psychologist [Dr Lillian Fawcett](#).
- Multiple paper-based reading, spelling and writing programs available for purchase online that are designed specifically for struggling students. The programs are scripted to assist parents or tutors deliver them.
- Free placement tests are available to assist with selection of the starting program level.

## DANDELION PHONIC BOOKS READERS AND WORKBOOKS

- The Dandelion Phonic Books Readers and Workbooks can be used together as a reading intervention. The workbooks contain pre and post reading activities.
- There is a placement test available to determine where to start in the series of books. Books and workbooks are available for young readers (age 4 to 8) and older catch-up readers (ages 8 to 14).
- Available from the [SPELD NSW Bookstore](#).

## NESSY READING AND SPELLING PROGRAM

- [Nessy](#) is a fun and engaging suite of online programs suitable for primary school aged children.
- 100 lessons with videos, online activities and printable worksheets. Introduces letter-sound relationships and blending and segmenting to read and spell in a systematic and sequential manner.
- There are also a number of Nessy iOS apps available that target some of the individual reading and spelling skills.

## PHONICS HERO

- [Phonics Hero](#) is a systematic, synthetic phonics program that is games based.
- The games and activities in Phonics Hero are fun and engaging. Appropriate for children in Kindergarten to year 2.
- Accessed online or through an iPad or Android tablet app. A range of worksheets that parents can purchase as an additional bundle.

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## SOUNDS WRITE - HELP YOUR CHILD TO READ AND WRITE

- [Sounds Write](#) is a linguistic, structured, synthetic phonics program designed for teachers and speech pathologists.
- Sounds-Write has made the first 14 units of the Sounds-Write course available for parents to use through Udemy. [The Udemy course](#) includes video tutorials for parents and downloadable resources.
- The first 14 units address reading and spelling with single letter sounds only (the Initial Code) and so is suitable for students who need to learn early reading skills.
- There is also a Sounds-Write app available for iPads called "Initial Code".
- Sounds-Write Activity Books can also be purchased from the SPELD NSW Bookstore for use in the home environment.

## TEACH YOUR CHILD TO READ IN 100 EASY LESSONS

- An affordable book, with a step by step program
- Parents can use at home to work one on one with their child while they are learning to read.
- Available from Dyslexia SPELD Foundation of WA.

## TOE BY TOE

- [Toe by Toe](#) is a small red book with a series of short, structured lessons which can be used to teach a student to decode words to read.
- All the instructions you need to use the program are provided in the Toe by Toe book.
- Low cost, easy to follow and can be used by primary school or high school students or adults. Students can find Toe by Toe repetitive and may need some encouragement.
- Teaches letter-sound relationships, a simplified form of syllable division and multi-syllabic words.
- Available at the [SPELD NSW Bookstore](#).

## WORD WASP & HORNET LITERACY PRIMER

- New programs from the writers of Toe by Toe to address both reading and spelling.
- [The Hornet Literacy Primer](#) introduces individual letter-sound relationships and fundamental literacy skills
- [Word Wasp](#) introduces more complex reading skills and is aimed at older students.
- An online program selection test is available and video examples and sample pages are available online to assist you in assessing the program.
- All the instructions you need to use the programs are provided in the books. Students can find the program repetitive and may need some encouragement.
- Available from Dyslexia SPELD Foundation of WA.

# Games and Resources for Home Use

## LITTLE LEARNERS LOVE LITERACY GAMES

Australian decodable book publisher Little Learners Love Literacy has created a number of fun phonics based games to support systematic, synthetic phonics instruction.

- Milo's Read and Grab Word Games
  - Milo's Read & Match Game
  - Sounds Swap Word Game
- Many of the Little Learners Love Literacy Games are available from the SPELD NSW Bookstore.

## PHONICS ACTIVITY PACK

- Small whiteboard, magnetic letters and instruction booklet. Ideal for hands on phonics activities.
- Available from the [Dyslexia SPELD Foundation](#) of WA.

## READING DOCTOR APPS FOR TEACHING KIDS TO READ AND SPELL

- A series of interactive and effective apps (iPad, android and mac)
- The apps allow students to practise letter sound knowledge, blending to read, spelling, irregular words and word building.
- These apps were designed by an Australian speech pathologist.
- [Reading Doctor Apps](#) can be used to support systematic, synthetic phonics instruction and provide students with much needed opportunities for practise.

## SOUND CHECK RESOURCE BOOKS

- These resource books contain activities for students to practise the blending of sounds to form words. There are phonemic awareness warm-ups and worksheets which encourage the application of letter-sound knowledge.
- Available from the SPELD NSW Bookstore.

## SPELFABET WORKBOOKS AND GAMES

- [Alison Clarke](#) is a highly respected speech pathologist from Melbourne who has an excellent blog and many resources online.
- You can purchase inexpensive, downloadable workbooks books and games from her online store
- Great for additional practise for students receiving systematic, synthetic phonics instruction.

## TEACH YOUR MONSTER TO READ APP

- [Teach Your Monster to Read](#) is series of fun and engaging synthetic phonics games aimed at younger children.
- It is aimed at children in the early stages of reading development and children who need additional practise.

## TRUGS - TEACH READING USING GAMES

- These phonic reading card games provide enjoyable opportunities to practise reading accurately and fluently.
- Available from the [Dyslexia SPELD Foundation](#) of WA.





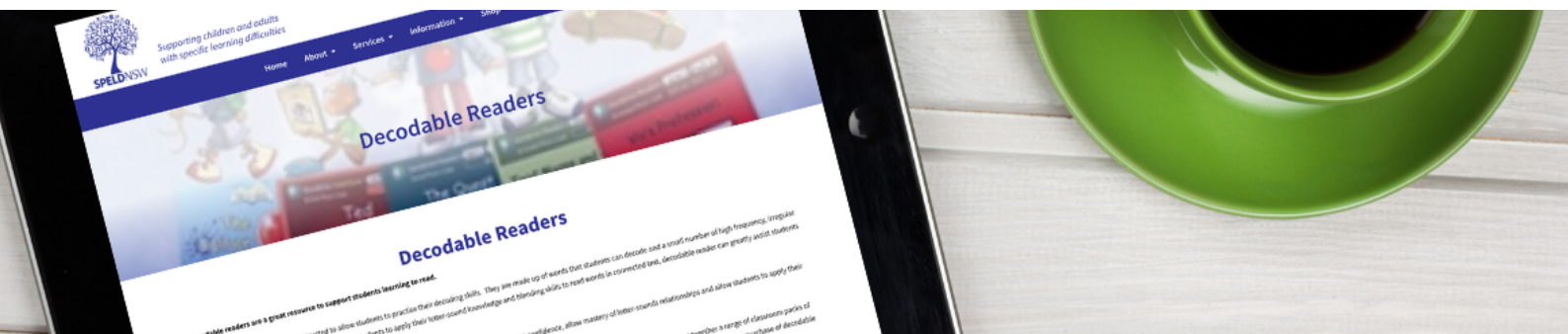
## Decodable Readers

An important part of any synthetic phonics programs or approach is the use of decodable books.

Decodable books are specially constructed short texts made up of words that students can decode and a small number of high frequency irregular words that children have been taught.

These books give students the opportunity to applying their knowledge of letter sound relationships and blending sounds to read words in connected text. Reading decodable texts can greatly assist students improving their reading accuracy and fluency.

Well written decodable books, with words that children can successfully decode, can boost confidence, allows mastery of letter-sounds relationships and allows children to apply their emerging reading skills.



## Where to purchase

- Purchase decodable readers from SPELD NSW Online Store
- Borrow from SPELD NSW (for SPELD NSW members only) and some libraries
- [SPELD SA](#) has published a large range of FREE decodable books and accompanying worksheets which can be downloaded from their website