

Build reading skills

A suggestion for implementing the strategy 'Support early literacy development through a structured literacy approach' from the Guide:

Dyslexia and learning

Includes: Phonics in your reading programme

Using decodable readers

Orthographic mapping

Reading to an adult

Action plans for teaching

Useful resources

From

Guide: Dyslexia and learning

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16 September 2025

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inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyslexia-and-learning/build-reading-skills

Phonics in your reading programme

Increasing the amount of explicit phonics instruction in small-reading group time leads to better outcomes.

Effective instruction includes:

- explicitly teaching phonics
- ✓ integrating that teaching into the reading programme through using decodable texts.

Recommendations for teaching beginning readers are outlined by Massey University researchers on pages 23–37.

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Using decodable readers



Source: Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

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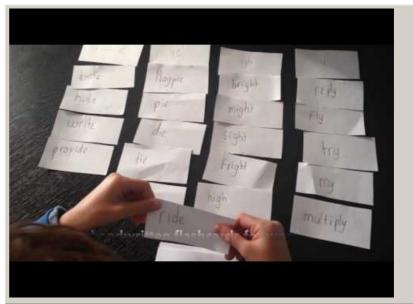
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Orthographic mapping

Orthographic mapping involves forming letter–sound connections to combine the spelling, pronunciation, and meaning of specific words into memory.

The video provides a multi-sensory example. Read the video description for detail.



Video hosted on Youtube http://youtu.be/iQsw21pFTNM

No captions or transcript

Source:

Tessa Daffern (AUS)

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5pvqoUDTNouQSHcPFOXS-w

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Reading to an adult

Many children whose confidence in reading is beginning to flourish can benefit greatly from regular reading to a sympathetic and trusted adult listener. Putting in the 'reading miles' at this stage can boost their pace and enjoyment of reading considerably.

Source:

Identifying and Teaching Children and Young People with Dyslexia and Literacy Difficulties

https://dera.ioe.ac.uk/14790/7/00659-2009DOM-EN_Redacted.pdf

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Action plans for teaching



Source:

Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

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Useful resources



About dyslexia – Supporting literacy in the classroom

Read time: 137 min

This booklet contains strategies for using a phonological approach to teaching reading and writing in the junior school, strategies for using a multi-sensory approach in the classroom, and accommodations and modifications teachers can make to support students with dyslexia.

Publisher: Ministry of Education NZ

Download PDF (3.3 MB)



Classroom strategies

Reading Rockets library has effective, research-based classroom strategies to help build and strengthen literacy skills in phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and writing.

Publisher: Reading Rockets

Visit website



Reading and the brain: Strategies for decoding, fluency, and comprehension

Read time: 16 min

Descriptions of difficulties learners may have, with specific classroom strategies on downloadable PDFs for differing levels.

Publisher: Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario

Visit website

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