Early identification of literacy learning needs

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

**Includes:**
- Take action early
- What to look for
- Recognising reading and writing difficulties
- Identifying learners needing support
- Key elements of early intervention
- Useful resources
Take action early

If the persistent achievement gap between dyslexic and typical readers is to be narrowed, or even closed, reading interventions must be implemented early, when children are still developing the basic foundation for reading acquisition.

**Emilio Ferrer, Bennet Shaywitz, John Holahan, Karen Marchione, Reissa Michaels, and Sally Shaywitz**

**Source:**
Achievement gap in reading is present as early as first grade and persists through adolescence
https://www.jpeds.com/article/S0022-3476(15)00823-9/fulltext
What to look for

Notice those students who are having difficulty with phonological awareness tasks, learning letters, basic sounding out of words, and word recognition.

This is part of a larger video.

Video hosted on Youtube [http://youtu.be/ogks_oVVPok](http://youtu.be/ogks_oVVPok)

No captions or transcript

Source: Tanya Forbes (AUS)
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDjuuqKjBNVDpgqp14IMSSA/featured](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDjuuqKjBNVDpgqp14IMSSA/featured)
Recognising reading and writing difficulties

<table>
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<tr>
<th>The simple view of reading</th>
<th>Oral language comprehension – Listening</th>
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</table>
| Word recognition – decoding | Competent reader – is average or above in:  
  • decoding  
  • listening comprehension  
  • reading comprehension  
| Specific comprehension difficulties | • average or above in decoding  
  • below average in reading comprehension |
| Reading difficulty (maybe dyslexia) | • average or above listening comprehension  
  • below average decoding  
  • below average reading comprehension |
| Mixed reading difficulties – is below average in: | • decoding  
  • listening comprehension  
  • reading comprehension |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The simple view of writing</th>
<th>Ideas</th>
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| Spelling | Many Interesting ideas  
  • Accurate spelling  
  • Lack of ideas  
| Writing difficulty (maybe dyslexia) | Inaccurate spelling  
  • Many Interesting ideas  
  • Inaccurate spelling  

Adapted from:  
Identifying learners needing support

The initial trigger for action is the child needing noticeably more reading support than his or her peers.

Step 1: Notice those making slow progress despite receiving high-quality literacy teaching – especially in teaching word recognition and language comprehension in keeping with the simple view of reading.

Step 2: Undertake further assessment, planning, and intervention with parents, whānau, and carers. Teaching is likely to include Tier 2 and/or Tier 3 interventions. It is reasonable to expect most children to respond well to these.
Key elements of early intervention

1. Explicit teaching in phonological awareness – teaching the ability to hear, recognise, and manipulate sounds that make up spoken words, for example, identifying rhyming sounds and clapping out syllables.
2. Strong focus on phonological decoding and word-level work.
3. Supported and independent reading of progressively more difficult texts.
4. Practice comprehension strategies while reading texts.
5. Systematic, focused teaching.
Inclusive Education
From
Guide: Dyslexia and learning
Strategy: Support early literacy development through a structured literacy approach
Suggestion: Early identification of literacy learning needs
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Link

Useful resources

Signs of dyslexia
Publisher: The British Dyslexia Association
Visit website

Guidelines/indicators of dyslexia
Publisher: Dyslexia Foundation of New Zealand
Download PDF

Three steps in screening for dyslexia
Download PDF (70 KB)