

Selecting a programme or PLD

Before purchasing a programme or PLD, ensure it is based on well-researched principles.

Use these questions to help your selection.

Is the programme:

- systematic – based on the 44 sounds and spelling rules of the English language and can be taught with consistency by different teachers?
- cumulative – builds on previous learning to ensure a strong foundation?
- structured – beginning with simple concepts progressing to more complex ones?
- sequential – meeting children at their current level with an ordered progress?

Does it cover:

- phonological awareness?
- phonics and decoding?
- fluency?
- vocabulary?
- comprehension?

How will it impact teaching staff? Consider:

- how much training is required
- what supports are provided
- how much teacher preparation is required
- what resources are needed
- whether teacher aides or volunteers can be part of the programme.

What is needed for schoolwide implementation?

- How much initial and ongoing training is required?
- Who can participate in the training sessions?
- What resources are needed?
- What is the cost?

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