

# Take a phonics-based approach for early literacy learning

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

[Dyslexia and learning](#)

---

## **Includes:**

- Identify what students can do
- Develop phonological awareness
- Plan a structured programme
- Use Ready-to-Read Phonics Plus
- Take a multi-sensory approach
- Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Dyslexia and learning](#)

Strategy: [Support early literacy development through a structured literacy approach](#)

Suggestion: [Take a phonics-based approach for early literacy learning](#)

Date

18 September 2025

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyslexia-and-learning/take-a-phonics-based-approach-for-early-literacy-learning](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyslexia-and-learning/take-a-phonics-based-approach-for-early-literacy-learning)

---

## Identify what students can do

Tom Nicholson explains how using the alien words test ([Appendix A.9a: Decoding and A.9b pp 50–53](#)) enables you to identify exactly which sounds a learner can decode and provides a place to begin teaching from.



Video hosted on Youtube <http://youtu.be/qPuGh-knrag>

No captions or transcript

Source:

[NZCER \(NZ\)](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChMYjSxXeU7gb522kIQpNcg>

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Dyslexia and learning](#)

Strategy: [Support early literacy development through a structured literacy approach](#)

Suggestion: [Take a phonics-based approach for early literacy learning](#)

Date

18 September 2025

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyslexia-and-learning/take-a-phonics-based-approach-for-early-literacy-learning](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyslexia-and-learning/take-a-phonics-based-approach-for-early-literacy-learning)

---

## Develop phonological awareness

Plan to develop phonological awareness at the point the student can detect similarities in sounds between or within words. This may be at the level of the whole word, syllable, rhyme, onset and rime, or individual phonemes.

Read

(pages 49-65).



Video hosted on Youtube <http://youtu.be/KoG6teawxls>

Closed Captions

Source:

[Understood](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KoG6teawxls>

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Dyslexia and learning](#)

Strategy: [Support early literacy development through a structured literacy approach](#)

Suggestion: [Take a phonics-based approach for early literacy learning](#)

Date

18 September 2025

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyslexia-and-learning/take-a-phonics-based-approach-for-early-literacy-learning](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyslexia-and-learning/take-a-phonics-based-approach-for-early-literacy-learning)

---

## Plan a structured programme

Provide a structured sequence of phonic patterns that is cumulative.

This series of videos provides support for how to use the phonics based Ready-to-Read series.

- [Ready-to-Read phonics plus video guide](#)

You can also download a set of phonics flashcards to support the Read-to-Read phonics plus series.

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Dyslexia and learning](#)

Strategy: [Support early literacy development through a structured literacy approach](#)

Suggestion: [Take a phonics-based approach for early literacy learning](#)

Date

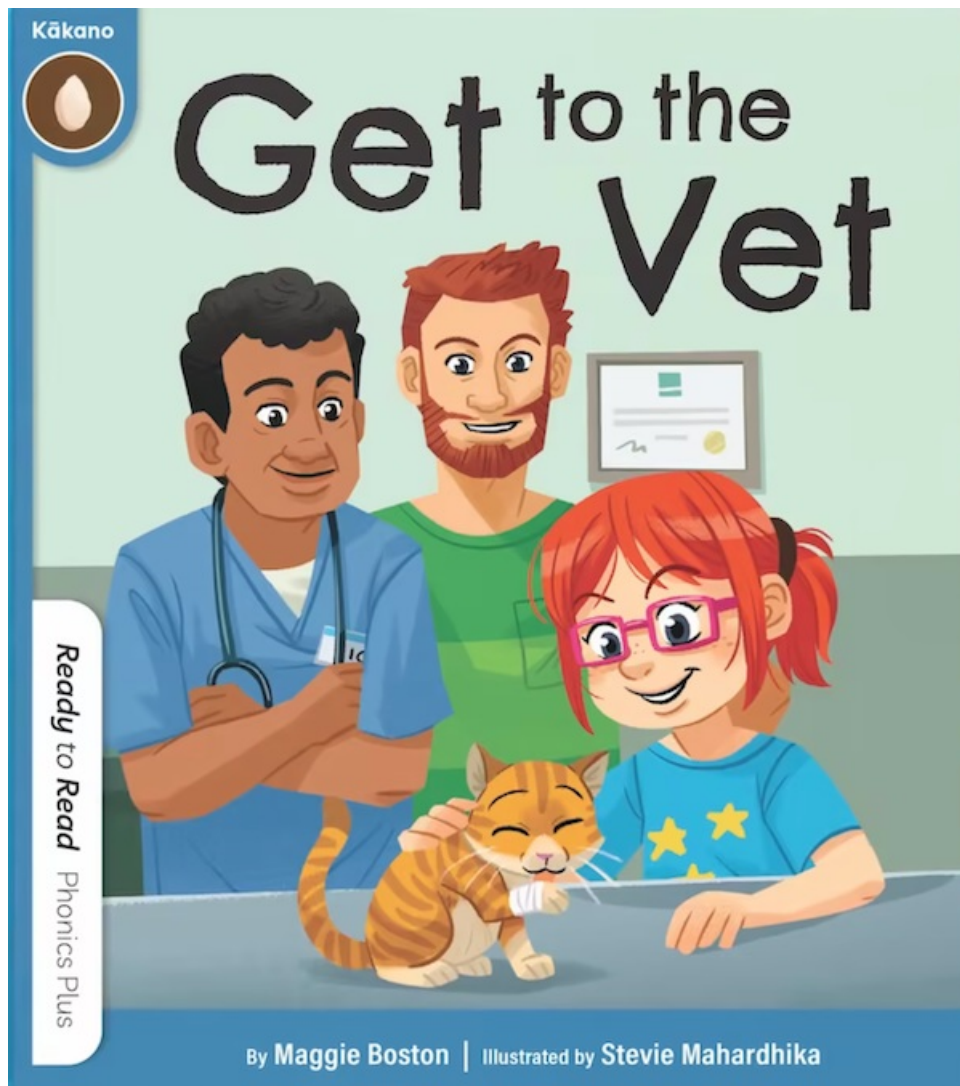
18 September 2025

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyslexia-and-learning/take-a-phonics-based-approach-for-early-literacy-learning](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyslexia-and-learning/take-a-phonics-based-approach-for-early-literacy-learning)

---

## Use Ready-to-Read Phonics Plus



Source:

Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

<https://literacyonline.tki.org.nz/Literacy-Online/Planning-for-my-students-needs/Instructional-Series/Ready-to-Read/Ready-to-Read-Phonics-Plus>

[View full image \(460 KB\)](#)

[Inclusive Education](#)

From

Guide: [Dyslexia and learning](#)

Strategy: [Support early literacy development through a structured literacy approach](#)

Suggestion: [Take a phonics-based approach for early literacy learning](#)

Date

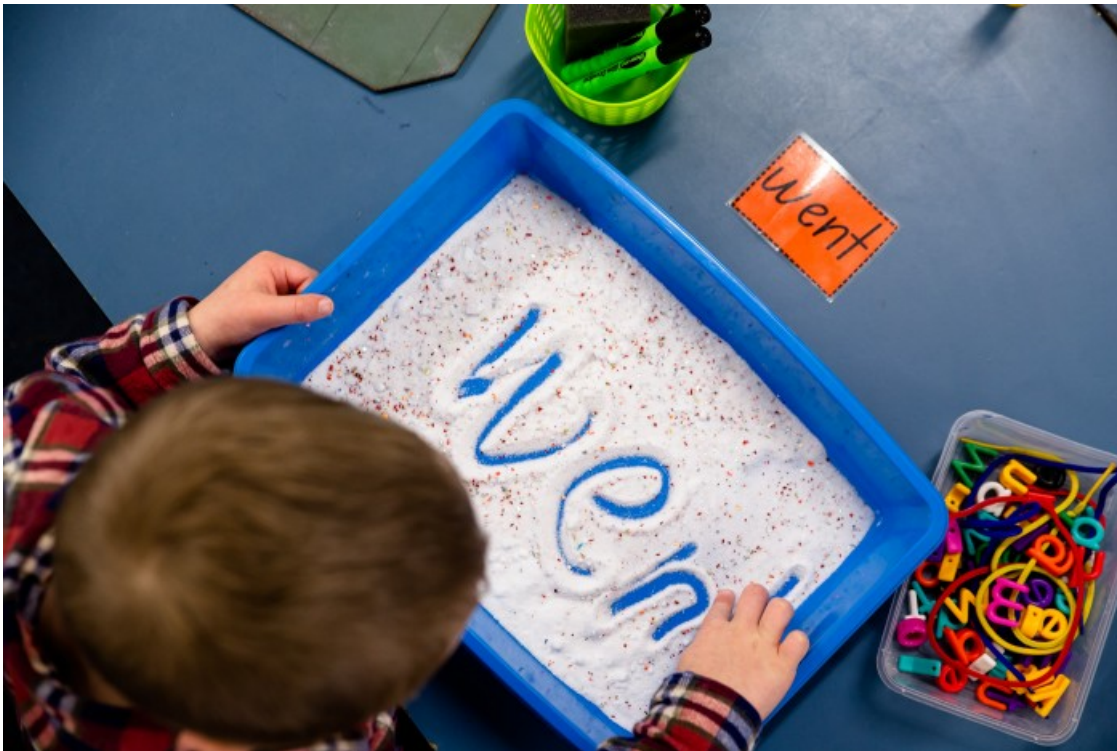
18 September 2025

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyslexia-and-learning/take-a-phonics-based-approach-for-early-literacy-learning](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyslexia-and-learning/take-a-phonics-based-approach-for-early-literacy-learning)

---

## Take a multi-sensory approach



Source:

Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

[View full image \(715 KB\)](#)

[Inclusive Education](#)

From

Guide: [Dyslexia and learning](#)

Strategy: [Support early literacy development through a structured literacy approach](#)

Suggestion: [Take a phonics-based approach for early literacy learning](#)

Date

18 September 2025

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyslexia-and-learning/take-a-phonics-based-approach-for-early-literacy-learning](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyslexia-and-learning/take-a-phonics-based-approach-for-early-literacy-learning)

---

## Useful resources



### Sound Sense: Supporting reading and writing in years 1-3

Read time: 35 min

Sound Sense provides suggestions for how you can support students, particularly year 1 students, in developing and applying understandings about sounds, letters, and words when reading and writing.

Publisher: English Online

[Visit website](#)



### Writing for impact: Teaching students how to write with a plan and spell well

Based on a simple view of writing, these books provide simple, effective strategies to improve teaching and learning. The books include templates, plans, and links to videos that support these strategies.

Price: **One off charge \$90.00**

[Visit website](#)

This information was downloaded/printed from the Ministry of Education's website "Inclusive Education". Except where otherwise noted it is Crown Copyright 2018.

Information on the Inclusive Education website is regularly updated so we recommend you check the website version of this information to ensure it remains current.