

## Dear Parents

We are excited to be teaching your little learner with our engaging literacy program this year. This letter is to tell you more about our decodable books, which support children as they develop as young readers.

## What are decodable books?

There are generally two types of levelled books given to beginner readers – decodable (books which require children to read words by sounding out, using the letters and sounds that they have been taught) and predictable (repetitive text which encourages children to look at the picture, use their knowledge of high frequency words and other strategies to guess the text). Our books are decodable books. They are carefully written to match the Little Learners Love Literacy® sequence. Children experience success from the start by sounding out and blending the words in the books using the sounds and letters they've learnt so far.

## Little Learners Love Literacy® Stages

The Little Learners program is carefully sequenced in seven stages to teach children the 44 sounds of the English language and the principles of the alphabetic code (that each speech sound can be represented by different groups of letters, such as the sound /i/ as in **i**, **sky**, **pie**, **ice**, **cycle**, and that a letter (or group of letters) can represent different sounds, such as the letter 'y' in **y**es, **gy**m, **funny**, **sky**). There are five Pip and Tim books for every stage in the Little Learners Love Literacy® program, to provide opportunities for your child to apply the letter-sound correspondences taught at each stage in the classroom.

### Little Learners Love Literacy® Seven Stages



## Why do we use Little Learners decodable books?

The Little Learners decodable books (Pip and Tim series and The Wiz Kids series) contain funny stories and quirky illustrations to grab children's attention. Children love to follow the familiar characters on new adventures through the stages of the Little Learners program. The Little Learners decodable books are delightful stories that children can read using their phonics knowledge: the letters and sounds that they have been explicitly taught using the Little Learners Love Literacy® sequence, plus a few **Heart words**.

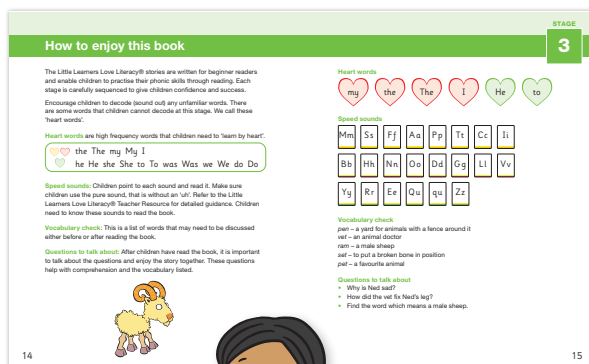
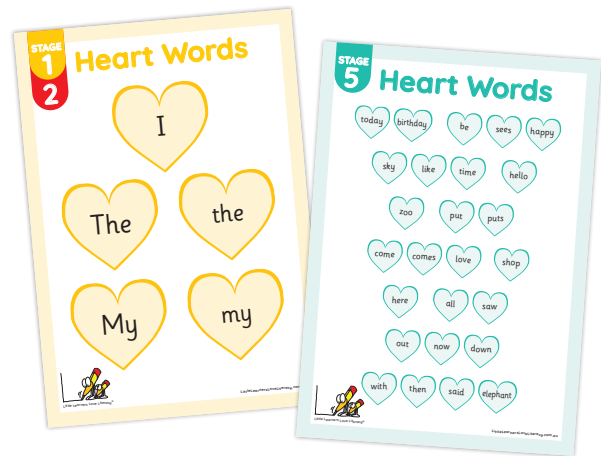


## What are heart words?

**Heart words** are introduced at each stage of our sequence. **Heart words** are words that children need to 'learn by heart', as they cannot decode them yet.

Heart words such as 'the' and 'said' are needed to create a sentence and a story. Many heart words will become decodable later in the program when children have learnt more of the alphabetic code.

Each book includes a 'How to enjoy this book' section, where you can find Heart words, speed sounds, a vocabulary check, as well as some comprehension questions and ideas for discussion.

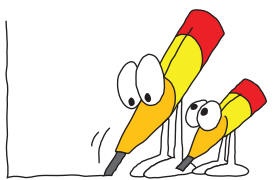


## Top tips for reading at home

- Before your child starts reading each book, go to the back two pages. Encourage your child to point at the graphemes (letters) and say the sounds, then ask them to read the Heart words.
- Encourage your child to sound out to read unknown words when they get stuck.
- Make sure your child tracks their finger underneath the words as they read them.
- Remember that this is the beginning of your child's learning to read journey and, just as when they were learning to walk, your child will need support to build confidence.

If you would like to find out more about the program, you can visit the website [littlelearnersloveliteracy.com.au](http://littlelearnersloveliteracy.com.au) or visit our YouTube channel. You can also ask your child's teacher for more information.

Kind regards



Little Learners Love Literacy®



Teaching ALL children to read, write and spell with confidence.