

## Examples of High Quality, Evidence-Based Phonics Programs and Resources

Reading and spelling are reversible processes and need to be explicitly taught together through the use of a structured and systematic phonics program. There are a number of programs available for use by teachers, tutors and parents that cater for the literacy needs of individuals from pre-school through to adulthood.

Some examples of structured and systematic evidence-based programs for use by trained teachers, tutors, or parents who have undergone training courses appear below:

*(SPELD SA provides training in many of these programs)*

- **Sounds-Write** - an evidence-based linguistic phonics program utilising a highly successful approach to the teaching of reading, spelling, and writing. It is aimed primarily at children in Reception/Foundation to Year 3, as a whole-school approach to teaching literacy and as a small group or one-to-one remediation program. It can also be used as an intervention program for middle to upper primary students, secondary students, and adults. An additional Year 3-6 course is available for trained practitioners.
- **Phonics Books UK** - (including the Dandelion, Dragon Eggs, Moon Dogs, Magic Belt, That Dog!, Alba, Totem, Rescue, Island Adventure, Talisman and Titan's Gauntlet series) decodable readers accompanied by a range of carefully developed student workbooks. Highly recommended for use with any structured synthetic phonics program (available at the SPELD SA Library and Bookstore). The readers follow the Sounds-Write sequence.
- **Multilit Suite of Programs** - structured and explicit programs developed by Macquarie University, which aim to teach at the whole-class to Year 2 level, as well as specific programs for those needing literacy intervention. The programs range in use from pre-school children prior to school entry (PreLit), Foundation to Year 2 students (Initialit) to struggling Year 1 and 2 students (MiniLit and LanguageLift) and from Year 2 students to adults (Reading Tutor Program, MacqLit, Reinforced Reading, Spell-it, and Word Attack).
- **Letters and Sounds** - designed as a whole-school approach to teaching literacy for students from Reception/Foundation to Year 3, but can be used effectively with any age group as a program for small group or one-to-one remediation. This program is supported by a range of free online resources and commercially available games.
- **PLD Literacy and Learning** - designed as a whole school approach from Kindergarten or Reception/Foundation to Year 3, but can be implemented within individual classrooms and for small group intervention.
- **Little Learners Love Literacy** - an early literacy program which focuses on explicitly teaching phonemic awareness and letter-sound relationships through systematic synthetic phonics. A range of supporting resources is available, including decodable readers, games, activities and iPad apps.



- **Jolly Phonics and Jolly Grammar** - a multi-sensory synthetic phonics program, which includes activities and games for reading and spelling in addition to the main teaching content. It is aimed at children from Reception/Foundation to Year 3, and covers 42 letter sounds, common and alternative spelling patterns and grammatical concepts. The spelling and grammar content cover all years of primary school.
- **UFLI Foundations** - an explicit and systematic phonics program that introduces students to the foundational reading skills necessary for proficient reading. It follows a carefully developed scope and sequence and is designed to be used for core instruction in the primary grades or for intervention with struggling students in any grade.
- **READ-3** - an evidence-based intervention program which integrates phonological awareness, systematic synthetic phonics and fluency strategies. It is suitable for use by parents or professionals with primary-aged students.
- **Read, Write Inc.** - provides a structured and systematic approach to teaching literacy, including 'Phonics' for R-2 and 'Fresh Start' literacy intervention for struggling readers and writers. As well as modules specifically targeting phonics knowledge, the program includes applied reading activities, comprehension questions, grammar and writing activities.
- **Reading Mastery** - a complete reading program that uses the Direct Instruction method to help children (or older students) master essential decoding and comprehension skills. Each 30-45 minute lesson includes seven to nine short activities focusing on a range of skills including phonemic awareness, letter-sound correspondence, word recognition, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension.
- **Spelling Mastery** - is a six-level Direct Instruction program that teaches students dependable spelling skills utilising phonemic awareness, word recognition and morphemic awareness.

## Resources to support the teaching of phonics

- **SPELD SA Phonic Readers** - these decodable readers are free to download from the SPELD SA website. The books are based on the sequence of sounds introduced in the Jolly Phonics program, with additional sets using the Sounds-Write sequence. Each book has focus vocabulary, reading tips, questions for discussion and a practice page. There are Parent-friendly Instructional Handbooks to accompany the readers, which do not require specialist training.
- **Reading Doctor** - Apps for teaching kids to read and spell – this series of interactive and effective Android, Mac and Windows-based apps teach children the essential skills of blending and segmenting, single letter sounds, letter-sound patterns and sight word recognition consistent with a structured synthetic phonics approach.
- **TRUGS** (Teach Reading Using Games) - these phonic reading card games provide enjoyable opportunities to practise reading accurately and fluently.
- **Sound Check 1 and Sound Check 2** - these resource books contain activities to practise the blending of sounds to form words. There are phonemic awareness warm-ups and worksheets which encourage the application of letter-sound knowledge.



- **Phonics Resources for Older Learners and Phonics Stories for Older Learners** (Frances Woodward) - decodable texts and activities for supporting phonics instruction with older learners.
- **The Complete Phonic Handbook** (Diana Hope) - this book contains colour-coded phonic word lists organised according to level of complexity and also includes activity suggestions. It is a useful guide for tutors to work through systematically with students.
- **Spelfabet materials** (Alison Clarke) - the Spelfabet website ([www.spelfabet.com.au](http://www.spelfabet.com.au)) contains a range of downloadable spelling resources which are consistent with explicit, systematic synthetic phonics teaching.
- **Phonics Activity Pack** (available from [dsf.net.au](http://dsf.net.au)) - this is an ideal resource for phonics-based intervention at any level. It includes a small magnetic whiteboard with a full set of 78 magnetic alphabet letters, digraphs, trigraphs, and vowel teams. Use the letter tiles to assist with a phonemic approach to spelling and to encourage the blending of sounds and segmenting of words. It also encourages reluctant writers to have a go at spelling.

## Parent-friendly programs

- **Help your child to read and write** - activity books based on the Sounds-Write phonics program, to help your child with their first steps to learning to read and write. A broad range of activities, including word building, word reading, sentence reading and dictation tasks, memory games and tracking, will give your child the kind of practice that they need in order to learn to read and write. Each activity includes a simple instruction, so you and your child can work together to complete the task. This resource compliments the Sounds-Write Udemy on-line course which is free to access. [www.udemy.com/help-your-child-to-read-and-write/](http://www.udemy.com/help-your-child-to-read-and-write/)
- **Toe by Toe** - A Highly Structured Reading Manual for Teachers & Parents – a highly scripted, easy to follow program that teaches students letter-sound relationships and blending in a sequential structured manner. The program uses repetition and nonsense words decoding and teaches students to read polysyllabic words through syllable division.
- **Nessy Learning Program** - this multi-sensory computer program begins with the earliest alphabet sounds and goes to an advanced level (16+). Each lesson follows a structured, phonic approach supported by hundreds of printable card games, activity sheets, mnemonics, reading and spelling assessments, storybooks and animated computer games to reinforce the rules and strategies for each teaching point.
- **Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons** - in 20 minutes a day, this step-by-step program introduces children to the reading process. This program allows parents to work on a one-on-one basis with children in need of structured assistance.

Please note that this list is not exhaustive. There are likely to be other examples of evidence-informed, structured literacy programs that have not been listed here. Page 33 of the Understanding Learning Difficulties booklet provides criteria for evaluating whether a program is likely to be successful and this information can be used to assist in choosing a high quality, evidence-based phonics program.

