

Reading Recovery

A Guide for Parents

Each year, students in Year 1 who are having difficulty learning to read and write, are selected for the series of Reading Recovery lessons. Reading Recovery enables children to become active and independent readers and writers, better able to join in the daily literacy activities of the classroom.

How students are selected

One of the key ways in which students are selected is through an Observation Survey of Early Literacy Achievement. This is administered individually to students and assesses their skills in the following areas:

- letter identification
- word knowledge
- print concepts
- writing vocabulary
- phonemic awareness
- text reading level.

In addition to the Observation Survey, the early years team will identify students based on observation in the classroom.

The Reading Recovery lesson

Each day the Reading Recovery teacher works individually with the child who:

- reads three or four familiar books to gain confidence in reading
- writes a sentence using their own ideas
- re-assembles the cut-up sentence to practise searching for words
- works with letters and words to assist in spelling
- reads a new book to further develop reading skills.

Taking part

If your child is selected to take part in Reading Recovery, your school will contact you to organise a meeting. This is a chance for you to meet with the early years team and to share what you know about your child's interests, experiences and literacy skills and attitudes. With your help, the teacher can better understand the ways in which your child learns.

Supporting your child

As a parent, you are strongly encouraged to support your child's learning at home. Just as you encouraged your child to learn how to crawl, walk and talk, you can be actively involved in helping your child's reading and writing.

There are a number of practical ways that you can support your child's Reading Recovery lesson series.

Read together

Make a special quiet time to read together every day. This time should be a happy part of the day that you and your child can look forward to together.

Use the Reading Recovery materials when your child is at home. The take-home books and reassembling of the cut-up sentence could be a part of your daily quiet reading time.

Praise and encourage

Encourage all the efforts your child makes when reading a book. If your child is unsure of a word, wait a moment and then say the word so that the meaning of the story isn't lost. Enjoyment and understanding during reading time are most important.

Visit the school

During your child's Reading Recovery Lesson series you are invited to visit the school and watch your child participate in a Reading Recovery lesson.

Keep up attendance

Your child will participate in Reading Recovery on a daily basis. Therefore it is very important that your child attends school every day so that he or she can continue to make rapid progress. If your child is likely to be absent for an extended period, please let the school know as early as possible.

Stay in touch

Contact your school principal if you wish to speak to the Reading Recovery teacher or the early years coordinator about your child's progress in Reading Recovery.

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