About literacy

There are many claims as to the correct approach to teaching early reading. These range from the phonics and whole word approaches and other systems which range from the incomplete to the bizarre! Many literacy programs have failed because the learning strategies they employ are critically flawed. Many traditional ‘phonics’ programs teach students letter-sounds but they fail to teach students how to use knowledge of letter-sounds to work out or decode words. This is the key to learning to read. Ineffective programs result in problems with comprehension and have an enduring negative impact on students. The eventual result is poor literacy, reduced self-esteem and, in many cases, disaffection from school and learning. In contrast, Reading LINK Decoding addresses all of these issues to speed up literacy fluency!

The findings of the National Enquiry into the Teaching of Literacy, published in December 2005, had this to say as to the teaching of the fundamentals of literacy in Australian schools:

“The Inquiry found strong evidence that a whole-language approach to the teaching of reading on its own is not in the best interests of children, particularly those experiencing reading difficulties. Moreover, where there is unsystematic or no phonics instruction, children’s literacy progress is significantly impeded, inhibiting their initial and subsequent growth in reading accuracy, fluency, writing, spelling and comprehension.”

Used by over 60,000 students in classrooms and libraries across Australia!

**About Reading LINK Decoding**

Dr Christensen's program addresses reading and spelling by first providing a regular, structured approach to teaching students to blend letter-sound correspondences together to work out regular, unfamiliar words. In doing this, the program builds very high levels of proficiency. It also builds students' sight-word vocabulary and at the same time, provides the foundations for comprehension by providing experiences that encourage students to read books and engage in the ideas expressed in text.

**Reading LINK** is based on a systematic, structured approach to development of higher levels of reading and spelling skills. In the process of building these skills, it provides increasingly challenging tasks whereby students experience continual success. The program ensures mastery of the process through carefully sequenced practice and monitoring of performance. Thus, students develop a strong sense of themselves as competent and capable readers and writers.

Regardless of their age, learners can work through the program at a level that provides challenging tasks at which they experience continual success, enjoyment and enhanced sense of self.

"The Committee recommends that teachers provide systematic, direct and explicit phonics instruction so that children master the essential alphabetic code-breaking skills required for foundational reading proficiency."


**Advantages**
- effective and permanent,
- carefully sequenced and structured,
- direct explicit teaching of basic decoding skills,
- transforming whole schools,
- easy to use,
- latest research proves effectiveness and permanency,
- suitable for all ages,
- short lesson formats.

**The series includes:**
- Workbooks,
- Student readers,
- Cue cards and
- Teacher’s manual
- Assessment guide

**Extensive series of**
letter, sound and word cards

**Timed and carefully**
structured testing

**Contains a variety of**
Decoding learning techniques