

Bridging the Literacy Gap – Secondary Schools

By Ros Lugg

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The current landscape



“Literacy is essential for achievement across the curriculum.”

“Research has demonstrated a significant relationship between literacy and the ability to reason efficiently and critically.”

EducationHub, 2022



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The current landscape – PISA results

Results are deteriorating – although Australia is above the OECD average.

Australia has dropped around 30 points.



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The current landscape

PISA 2018 tested 14,000 Australian students.
Percentage of illiterate 15-year-olds had grown to almost 20%.

Around 40% were unable to read at a ‘proficient standard’.

Nearly 1 in 5 Australian students start secondary school at or below minimum standards for literacy.



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Some Australian Studies

ACER study, 2022

Few secondary schools are consistently providing students with support they are confident will make a difference.

A third of school staff said they found it difficult to identify students who are struggling.



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Some Australian Studies

ACER study, 2022

Some teachers also lack confidence about which foundational skills to prioritise and how to organise support in secondary education.

One concern was that interventions are often aimed at providing access to curriculum material at the current year level, rather than developing missing foundational skills.



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Course Scope & Sequence

Course Level	Scope	Sequence	Grammar & Content
Level 10	Vowel patterns Consonant patterns P-modified patterns Vowel patterns Prefixes Doubled T	wo- (work), -ble, -able, -ible ch sounds, -cy r/ri/g/ig on /s/, ear, -g, end -y (short)	Contractions Prefixes & suffixes Plurals Homophones Maths/numeracy vocabulary Noun(s)/verb Comparatives/superlatives Adverbs Collective nouns Most words Vocabulary study
Level 11		tion (ach), ance, ou f/er/ur/ur on /s/, ou, sion, -ic/-ful, soft c ou/ow, gn/ln/-not-, ough, mis-, pre-, -ure, igh, ant/er/er /s/, ad/ve	
Level 12			
Level 13	All above, cont'd	or-, ment-, -as (-), -ation, ible/able, qu-/-n/-m- gh, uk, -the, -al	Prefixes & suffixes Plurals Vocabulary study Morphology (only) Homophones Noun, verb, verb Maths vocabulary
Level 14		-ibility/-ability, -tion, -aw, dis-, -ique, -ic (-), confid-, ence, live Wf, pro-, ph	



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Course Scope & Sequence

Course Level	Scope	Sequence
Level 15		-ful, ic, ish, al, ort, etc, anti-, sub-, -ous, cc, ent, ucl
Level 16		eer/ier/ere, un-/non-, -que, ant, uni/bi/tri-, -our, ent/ant
Level 17		ui, ure, -ect, -ic/-ly, ab-, -ly, -ious, -etic, -ive
Level 18		au, ph, cc, ssion/sion, ei, ent/ant, -fy, -cation



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Course Scope & Sequence

Grammar & Content

CVCC/CVCVC	Contractions
Numeracy concepts/words	Prefixes & suffixes
Maths vocabulary	Plurals revision
Days and months	Homophones
Silent letters	Tricky words
Prefixes and suffixes	Maths vocabulary
Plural rules	Vocabulary Development
Compound words	Grammar
Homophones	Comparatives
Word building/segmentation	Superlatives
Apostrophes	Collective nouns
Contractions	Word Roots
Phoneme segmentation & blending	Morphology
Syllabification	Syllabification
Syntax	Syntax
Semantic awareness	Semantic awareness



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Course Scope & Sequence

Reading Practice
Res Student

Help Back

Click to hear the words:

- planet
- solar system
- actually
- combined
- gas giant
- vegetation
- permanent
- Arctic
- continent
- Antarctica
- minus
- temperature

Our planet Earth

Our planet Earth is the third planet from the Sun. It is the only planet in our solar system which has living things on it. It's also the only planet which has water on its surface. In fact, just over 70% of the Earth's surface is covered with water. Only about 30% is land.

Earth is not the largest planet in our solar system. It's actually the fourth largest. Mars, Mercury and Venus are smaller than Earth and the others are larger - some of them much larger!

Jupiter is a huge planet. In fact, it's two and a half times bigger than all the other planets combined. Unlike Earth, Jupiter is actually made up of gas. It's known as a gas giant for that reason.

Quizzes

1. Earth is the third biggest planet in our solar system.
 - Yes
 - No
2. The North Pole can get as cold as -63°C.
 - Yes
 - No
3. Over 50% of the Earth's surface is land.
 - Yes
 - No
4. Jupiter is larger than Earth.
 - Yes
 - No



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Course Scope & Sequence

Reading Practice
Res Student

Help Back

Click to hear the words:

- inspirational
- fascinated
- physics
- specializing
- cosmology
- universe
- mysterious
- radiation
- diagnose
- motor neurone disease
- artificial
- adversity

Stephen Hawking: An Inspirational Scientist

Stephen Hawking is considered one of the most inspiring people ever. Born in England in 1942, he was fascinated by space and time. He studied physics at Oxford University and became a world famous scientist, specialising in cosmology, the study of the universe.

Hawking is best known for his discoveries about black holes. Black holes are mysterious objects in space with such strong gravity that not even light can escape them. He found that black holes can give off a type of radiation, now called "Hawking Radiation," which surprised many scientists!

His ideas helped us understand more about how the universe works. He wrote a book called "A Brief History of Time".

Quizzes

1. How long did Stephen Hawking live?
 - 66 years
 - 27 years
 - 56 years
2. Cosmology is the study of...
 - The Sun
 - Comets
 - The universe
3. What gives off Hawking Radiation?
 - Space heating
 - radiation
 - black holes



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Identifying Needs and Reporting

Every student takes the Placement Test when they first go onto StepsWeb.

Placement Test analyses each student's literacy knowledge and places them at the right Level of the Course.



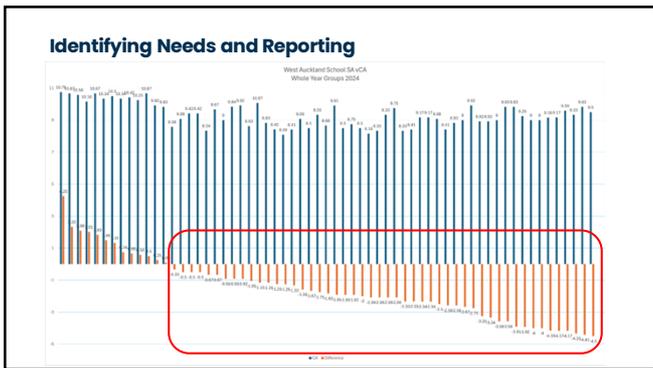
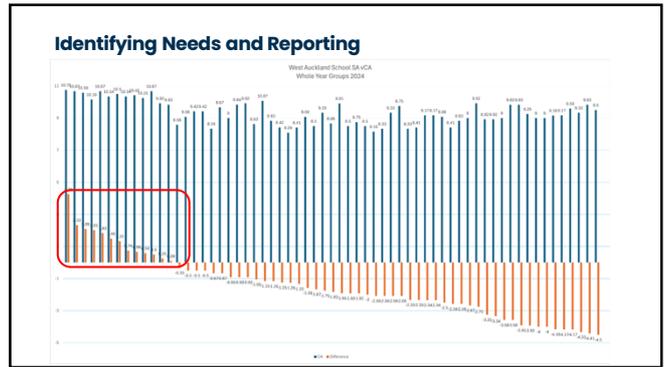
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Detailed analytics

Manage Students – Tools – Student Export

Full Name	Latest Spelling Test Results	Latest Spelling Test Result vs Age at Test	Latest Visual Test Result	Word Flash Delay	Overall Accuracy*	Reading / Spelling Accuracy*	Comprehension / Language Accuracy*	Phonics Knowledge / Skills	Notes
Demo Student A	7y6m	-2m	400ms	250ms	90%	89%	86%	88%	Visual recognition improving.
Demo Student B	15y3m	6y4m	50ms	50ms	84%	88%	88%	73%	Needs extra help with phonics.
Demo Student C	9y3m	2y6m	100ms	50ms	92%	92%	94%	88%	
Demo Student D	10y1m	2y4m	200ms	100ms	85%	87%	86%	79%	Needs extra help with phonics.
Demo Student E	9y11m	4m	600ms	400ms	92%	91%	86%	93%	Visual recognition improving.
Demo Student F	12y6m	7y2m	50ms	50ms	88%	90%	83%	89%	
Demo Student G	6y9m	-7y4m	50ms	50ms	89%	90%	90%	84%	
Demo Student H	9y2m	0m	50ms	50ms	93%	94%	94%	91%	
Demo Student I	7y9m	-8m	100ms	100ms	89%	91%	89%	82%	
Demo Student J	6y3m	-7y3m	200ms	250ms	84%	87%	73%	86%	ESOL Student. Needs extra comprehension.

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RTL6 6 Whole-Year Group Research Study 2023

Primary Schools	Average gain in 6 months	Average Visual Recognition Speed - Initial*	Average Visual Recognition Speed - Current*
Chaucer	14 months	243ms	144ms
Fruitvale	20 months	268ms	121ms
Glenavon	14 months	456ms	219ms
Laingholm	14 months	332ms	164ms
Prospect	12 months	344ms	151ms
St Leonards	14 months	388ms	196ms
Overall	14 months	339ms	166ms

On average, students gained 14 months in spelling age after using StepsWeb consistently for just 6 months.

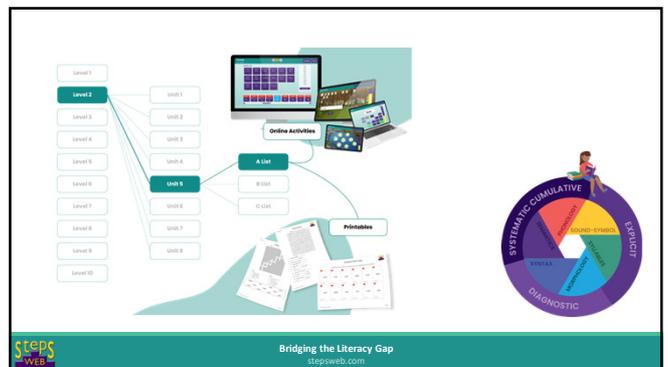
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Class Progression: All Students

David Lugg

	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8	Level 9	Level 10	Level 11	Level 12	Level 13	Level 14	Level 15
Abby Peters																
Alex Chen																
Alex Foster																
Alex Proust																
Ally Drake																
Alpha Borden																
Angie Chen																
Angie Wu																
Andy Brown																
Anna Breen																
Anna Sampson																
Anna Carter																
Anna White																
Anna Cox																
Anna Hobbs																
Ashley Gordon																
Anton Martin																
Bella Henderson																
Ben Gordon																
Ben Thompson																
Brooklyn Holland																
Carly Shore																
Carla Foster																
Chloe Smith																

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Manage Classes

Assigned Work

Volcanoes (Assigned: 31 Jul 2023) | **all words 1** (Assigned: 03 Aug 2023)

Add new Assigned Work

Weekly Goals

Name	Activity Goal	Accuracy	Time Spent	Activity Log
Alex Fery	2:10	85%	4m	7 logs
Alexa Martin	3:00	92%	11m	10 logs
Charlie Duran	0:10	-	0m	0 logs
Chris Columbus	2:00	98%	24m	21 logs
Dany Chan	7:00	96%	6m	7 logs
Dora Seard	0:10	-	0m	0 logs
Gar Gil	0:10	90%	6m	8 logs
Helen Caldwell	1:20	66%	3m	1 log
Jack Rogers	0:12	-	0m	0 logs
Joe Davidson	12:00	75%	24m	23 logs
Joe Seaw	8:5	98%	12m	9 logs
Julia Walker	0:20	-	0m	0 logs
Kamal Brown	0:8	-	0m	0 logs

Manage Classes

Class 2

Summary

32% 37%

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Class Spelling App: Class 2

Class Accuracy: Demo Class

Name	Activity Goal	Accuracy	Time Spent	Activity Log
Alex Fery	2:10	85%	4m	7 logs
Alexa Martin	3:00	92%	11m	10 logs
Charlie Duran	0:10	-	0m	0 logs
Chris Columbus	2:00	98%	24m	21 logs
Dany Chan	7:00	96%	6m	7 logs
Dora Seard	0:10	-	0m	0 logs
Gar Gil	0:10	90%	6m	8 logs
Helen Caldwell	1:20	66%	3m	1 log
Jack Rogers	0:12	-	0m	0 logs
Joe Davidson	12:00	75%	24m	23 logs
Joe Seaw	8:5	98%	12m	9 logs
Julia Walker	0:20	-	0m	0 logs
Kamal Brown	0:8	-	0m	0 logs

Class Monitor: Demo Class Support

Filter by: All students

Updates:

- Julia H. started Drop
- Julia W. started Feed The Koi
- Julia H. has high error count

Jack R. Offline

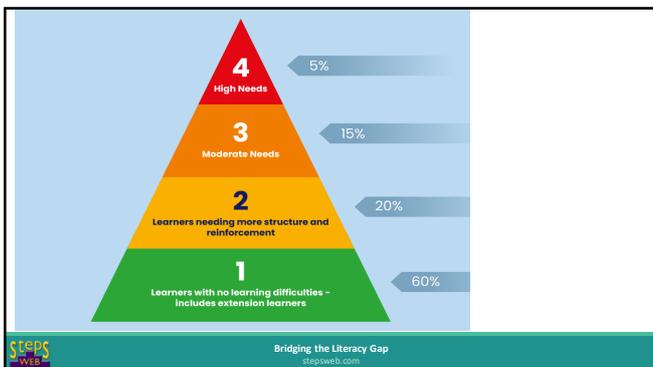
Jan S. Welcome 6 minutes

Talhouk C. Definitions 1 minute Errors: 1

Julia H. Drop 1 minute Errors: 2

Julia W. Feed The Koi 31 minutes Errors: 1

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Caters for the needs of all your students

Caters for whole-school, but also for students needing extra support.

Percentage	Category	Support Description
60%	Independent Learners	Will make excellent progress with just the online structured literacy progression.
20%	Need some support	More reinforcement and written transfer needed.
15%	Medium and high need	Workbook and possibly hands-on resources.
5%	High need	Workbook and possibly hands-on resources.

In summary

We hope you've found this webinar useful – please feel free to send in feedback and any questions.

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