



Bridging the Literacy Gap – Intermediate and High 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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EducationHub

"Written information has become the foundation on which the information revolution is built. Without access to this foundation, full participation in our society is impossible. Indeed poor literacy is so strongly correlated with poor life outcomes that it should be impossible to ignore."

Literacy, an evidence-informed guide for teachers, James Murphy

Poor readers at school tend to remain poor readers throughout their lives.



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The current landscape – PISA results

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

NZ has dropped nearly 30 points.



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The current landscape

63% of Year 4 students are achieving at or above curriculum level.

By Year 8, this figure has dropped to just 35% of students.

There are significant gaps between students of different socioeconomic backgrounds.

Persistent large gaps between the literacy levels of different ethnic groups.



EducationHub, 2022



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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

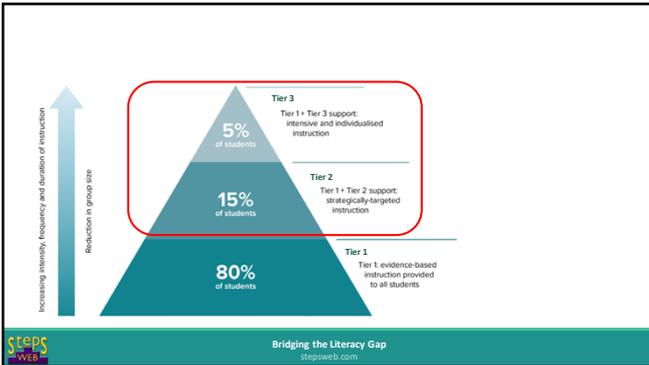
ACER study, 2022

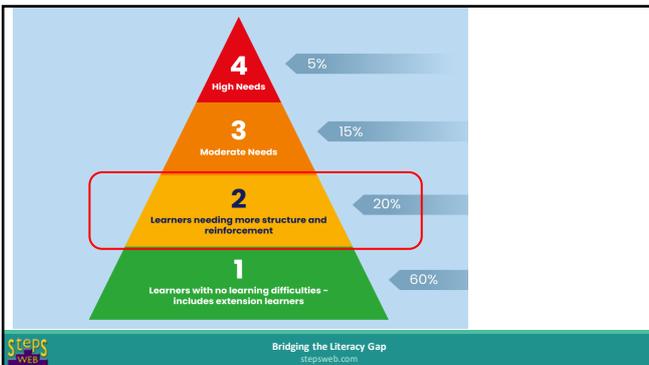
Some teachers also lack confidence about which foundational skills to prioritise and how to organise support in secondary education.

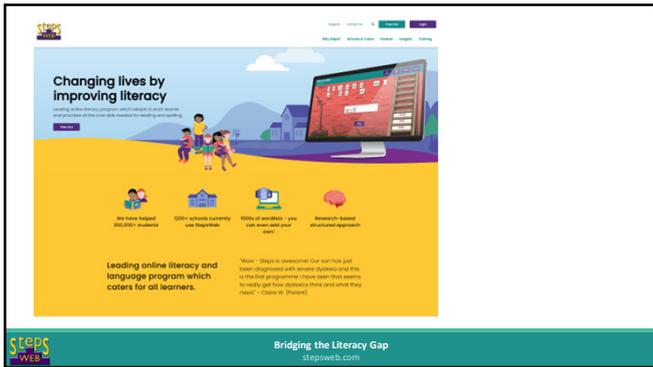
One concern was that interventions are often aimed at providing access to curriculum material at the current year level, rather than developing missing foundational skills.



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Course Scope & Sequence

Course Level	Scope	Sequence	Grammar & Content
Foundation A	Single consonants Short vowels	a, t, s, p, l, n, d, o	VC/CV/CVC
Foundation B	Consonant digraphs	g, s, m, c, b, u, h, r	Recognise digits and number words
Foundation C	Consonant digraphs	l, t, k, w, th, j, sh, v	Open/closed syllables Suffixes -s, -ing, -ed
Foundation D	Consonant digraphs	ck, ng, x, y, z, wh, qu, ch	High frequency words
Level 1	Initial and final blends Long vowel sounds Consonant patterns Long vowels	CVC, sh, th, st, ch, ng, ck, r-blends, ay, -all WF	CVCC/CVCVC Number words/numeration concepts Question words
Level 2	Vowel digraphs Vowel patterns Doubling consonants	i-blends, end blends sounds of /r/, -ff/, -ll/, -ss/, -zz, ee, oo (back), doubled consonants	Days of week Suffixes (intro) Compound words Common homophones
Level 3		oy, ai, o-e, i-e, oo (school), o-e, u-e, -ice WF	Months (Read only) Plurals Syllables

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Course Scope & Sequence

Level 4	Vowel patterns Consonant patterns R-modified patterns Vowel patterns Prefixes	tch, e-e, -le, ea (eat), or, or, oo, igh, st/spr, -old WF	Above, plus Apostrophes (intro) Contractions Silent letters Prefixes Plurals Homophones
Level 5		oi, ou, ir, ow (now), qu /squ-, oy, ur, soft 'g', er-, cck, ee	
Level 6		ew, oo (head), ow (know), ey, k/kf/ie, um-, ear, a, ore, -ight WF, ck/h/xe	
Level 7	Vowel patterns Consonant patterns R-modified patterns Vowel patterns Prefixes	-nce, -nch, aw, mb, dge, -ness, re-, or-, -ue, ou, oy/oi, oi/oy	Contractions Prefixes Suffixes Plurals Homophones Maths/numeration vocabulary Noun/adj/verb Vocabulary study
Level 8		ir/ur, igh/ite, -urs, ch/hch, was-, nch-, Ban, ore, -ound WF, -ore WF	
Level 9		ie, ou (i), or, ei, oy exceptions, -ire, -ue, gur-, ou, -ly, -less, -ory /-ory /-ory, -el	

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Course Scope & Sequence

Reading Practice
Ros Student

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.

Questions

1. Earth is the third biggest planet in our solar system.
 - Yes
 - No
2. The North Pole can get as cold as 40°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
Ros Student

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, specializing 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".

Questions

1. How long did Stephen Hawking live?
 - 10 years
 - 21 years
 - 50 years
2. Cosmology is the study of...
 - The Sun
 - Comets
 - The Universe
3. What gave off Hawking Radiation?
 - Stephen Hawking
 - 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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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.



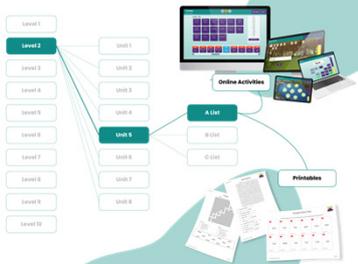
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Class Progression: All Students

David Lugg

Current Words: Stopped Words: Completed Words: Completed Within: Last 6 months: 0

	Level A	Level B	Level C	Level D	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	Level 16	
Ally Penon																					
Ali Chan																					
Alan Fowler																					
Alan Pritchard																					
Ally Drake																					
Alpha Borden																					
Angy Chan																					
Angy Wu																					
Anita Brown																					
Anita Bergman																					
Anita Carter																					
Anita White																					
Anita Gan																					
Ashaz Abbido																					
Ashley Gordon																					
Amya Haines																					
Bella Henderson																					
Ben Gordon																					
Ben Thomson																					
Brendan Woodhead																					
Caitie Stone																					
Calin Fowler																					
Carl G...																					



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Class Monitor: Demo Class Support

Ros Lugg

Filter by: All students

Updates:

- 30:49 Julia H. started Drop
- 30:49 Julia W. started Feed The Kiwi
- 30:50 Julia H. has high error count

Task R: Offline

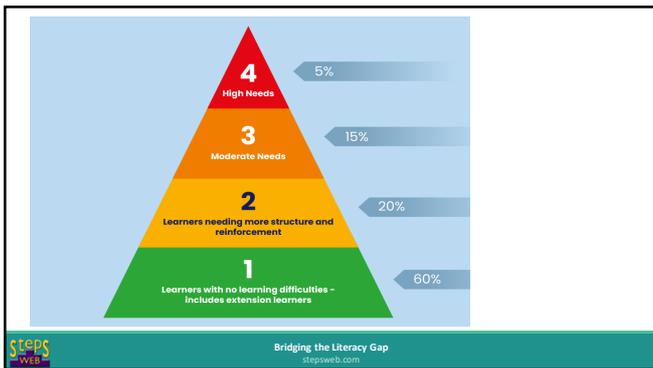
Tom S. Welcome 6 minutes Errors: 0

Joshua C. Definitions 1 minute Errors: 1

Julia H. Drop 1 minute Errors: 3

Julia W. Feed The Kiwi 01 minute Errors: 1

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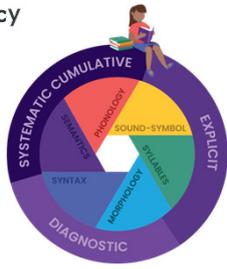
Caters for the needs of all your students

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

Percentage	Category	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	Workbooks and possibly hands-on resources.
5%	High need	Workbooks and possibly hands-on resources.

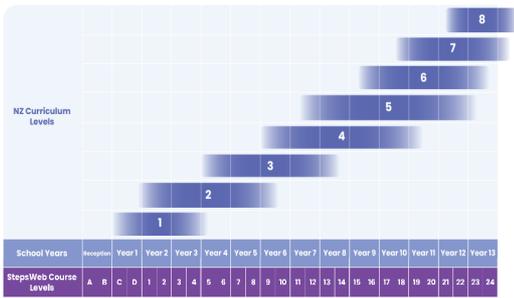
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Structured Literacy



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StepsWeb Course Alignment with NZ Curriculum Levels



In summary

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

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