

Can identified struggling students work on StepsWeb while the rest of the class takes part in the normal lesson? If so, how do we ensure they still cover curriculum topics?

When teaching core literacy skills, instruction needs to be at the student's own level. Whole-class literacy instruction that introduces concepts which are too difficult for some students is unlikely to be effective and can be demoralising. Equally, if the content is below a student's level, it may not be an effective use of their learning time because they have already mastered those concepts.

This is where StepsWeb can support differentiated literacy learning, allowing students to work on the skills and concepts appropriate to their individual level.

However, this is different from learning across the wider curriculum. Students still need access to curriculum areas such as science, maths and social studies, regardless of their literacy level. The key is to ensure that difficulties with literacy do not become a barrier to accessing this knowledge. This may involve adapting task requirements or using assistive technology and other appropriate supports so that students can engage with age-appropriate curriculum content while continuing to develop their literacy skills at the level that is right for them.

Is the StepsWeb reading content aligned with the New Zealand/Australian reading levels?

Yes. StepsWeb identifies each student's literacy level and provides reading activities that are appropriate to their individual level and needs.

In addition to this, we have developed curriculum alignment reporting tools which show how the skills and concepts students are working on align with curriculum requirements. These tools are currently available for Australian Curricula, and we are in the process of developing curriculum alignment tools for the New Zealand and UK curricula.

Is it okay for us to write out the wordlist words for students to complete them as a test or quiz?

There is no need to do a specific spelling test of the words taught in each unit. The Spelling Quiz is, in effect, a spelling test which is done for you at the right time and level for each student.

We also have a range of printables available for each wordlist. For example, the Sentence Examples worksheet lists each word with space for students to write their own sentence using that word. You can also print a version with example sentences provided, helping students with comprehension difficulties understand the meaning of each word and how it is used in context.

Is there a graph to show whole-class progress?

Yes there is, and we show whole-class progress in multiple ways.

To access this information, do the following:

- Go to 'Manage Classes' and select the class.
- You can expand either of the two charts which appear at the top of the class page, by clicking the button with two arrows. Hovering over any of the points on the chart will bring up more detailed information about each student's level, spelling age and chronological age.
- For more detailed charts, click the 'Reports' button under the class name.

There are a range of reports, available to view, download, and print:

- **Compare Weekly Goals:** This allows you to see the whole-class weekly goal completion progress at a glance. Weekly goals are the minimum number of activities we recommend students complete to either catch up with peers or maintain good literacy progress.
- **Class Progression:** This shows your whole class's progression on the StepsWeb Course, showing you exactly where that student is.
- **Class Accuracy:** This report is particularly useful for highlighting what areas of literacy students are struggling with.
- **Curriculum Alignment:** This report is currently available for Australia Curricula alignment, and is in development for New Zealand and UK Curricula. It shows how the class is progressing through the various literacy curriculum requirements which StepsWeb covers.

We have several articles which provide guidance on the various reporting tools on StepsWeb on our [Support Site](#).

Do you have any tips or strategies for using StepsWeb with deaf students?

StepsWeb has a deaf student setting. This disables activities that require sound, meaning your student can work on StepsWeb independently. We only recommend this setting for students with quite major hearing loss, as it does disable many of the StepsWeb activities.

To apply this setting to an individual, do the following:

- Go to 'Manage Students' and select the student.
- Click 'Edit' and then 'Learning Settings'
- Look for 'Hearing loss' (you may need to scroll) and click 'Set'.

Similarly, we also have a setting specifically for English Language Learners or students who are really struggling with comprehension. This is found above the Hearing Loss setting and can be set in the same way. The English Language Learner setting will disable activities that use more complex phonemes, and changes the emphasis onto the language aspects such as comprehension and vocabulary.

I'm working with English Language Learners who are adults, and they don't need to learn how to spell the words.

There is a setting called 'Exploration' which allows your learners to skip activities of their choosing. We do not recommend doing this for school students, but it is appropriate for some adults.

To apply this setting to an individual, do the following:

- Go to 'Manage Students' and select the student.
- Click 'Edit' and then 'Learning Settings'
- Look for 'Mode' (3 items down in the list) and click 'Exploration'.
- Then you will see an item marked 'Forced Progression'. Click 'Disabled'

To apply this setting to a class, do the following:

- Go to 'Manage Classes' and select your class.
- Click 'Edit' and then 'Settings'
- Click 'Forced Progression' and then open that window with the drop-down arrow. Then click 'Disabled'.
- Click 'Save'

This will allow free access to all parts of StepsWeb, including Wordlists, Supplementary Activities and Games. Your adult student will then be able to skip activities or Course units.

Caution: We do not recommend this setting for school-aged students. Also, if you apply this setting, you will have to monitor and control what your student is accessing to ensure that activities are done.

It would be useful to have a Māori accent in the program.

Yes, while we do have some Māori content in the program, we do not currently have a Māori accent available for English content. If there is someone with the expertise who would like to contribute a Māori accent and more Māori content to StepsWeb, we would love to work with you. Please get in touch.

How do you print printables for assigned work?

Go to the individual student or class you are assigning work to – either through 'Manage Students' or 'Manage Classes' and then select the student or class from the list. Click the 'Assigned Work' button. Select the assigned work task. You should see a 'Printables' button appear within that task.

You can then select any printables from the list.