

Knowledge shared = Knowledge²



Learning MATTERS

Chit Chat Discussion Sheet

Welcome to the Chit Chat between Carla McNeil of Learning MATTERS and Dr Katie Pace Miles, Ph.D. During this Chit Chat, Carla and Katie discuss learning 'words' and the best way for us to teach these.

We encourage you to listen to the Chit Chat (38 minutes) with your colleagues, team and/or staff, and consider the following questions and discussion points along the way. We hope this helps to cause some robust conversations, build shared understandings, and offers an opportunity for reflection.

You may wish to use the strategy of **READ** (*this discussion doc*) → **LISTEN** (*listen to the Chit Chat*) → **CHAT** (*with your colleagues*), sharing your thoughts, learnings, and reflections.

- How does orthographic mapping impact the way we teach high-frequency words to emergent readers?
- During the discussion Katie distinguishes between high-frequency words and sight words. How does this distinction affect instructional strategies in the classroom?
- What does Katie's finding that nearly all high-frequency words can be made decodable mean for us as teachers?
- Carla and Katie discuss the importance of educators building strong early word reading habits among emergent readers. Consider what this means for your practice.
- When discussing emergent readers, Katie emphasises the importance of one-on-one support for these learners. Consider and share some effective ways to provide this support in a typical classroom setting.
- What key knowledge and skills were highlighted as essential to ensure that all teachers effectively teach reading to emergent readers?
- How can educators effectively monitor and track the progress of emergent readers to ensure they are developing strong reading skills? Discuss why this is important.
- Katie also talks about the importance of phonemic awareness in reading instruction. Discuss some ways to integrate phonemic awareness activities into daily lessons to support orthographic mapping.



We hope you found the Chit Chat thought-provoking and a good opportunity to reflect on your practice. Perhaps you have begun your journey into Structured Literacy and the science of reading and there was a lot of affirmation, or perhaps this is your starting point. Either way, you are on your way. We wish you all the best as you too work to make a greater evidence-based shift in your setting.

- Do you have more to learn? What will you do now? What do you think are the next steps for your school?
 - Build more knowledge?
 - Improve teaching practice?
 - Consider resourcing?
 - Build consistency across classrooms?



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