

Knowledge shared = Knowledge²



Learning MATTERS

Chit Chat Discussion Sheet

Dr. Maryanne Wolf – Neuroscience and Reading Instruction

Welcome to the Chit Chat between Carla McNeil of Learning MATTERS, and Dr. Maryanne Wolf. During this Chit Chat, Carla and Maryanne discuss how the brain's unique wiring in dyslexic learners informs effective Structured Literacy interventions, demonstrates the adaptability of these programmes to diverse needs, and redefines our understanding of intelligence, creativity, and societal support for dyslexic individuals.

We encourage you to listen to the Chit Chat (44 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.

- Why is it important for educators to know about reading circuitry?
- Discuss your key takeaways about the reading brain, the circuitry that forms and the implications of this circuitry in relation to continued reading achievement.
- What happens in the circuitry between ages 5 - 8 years?
- Why is the saying - "*the more you read, the better you read*" so valid?
- What does Dr. Wolf mean when she says there is not only one reason why dyslexia exists? What are the implications of our practice and interventions?
- Define multi componential instruction, what might you consider in your practice?
- Dr. Wolf discusses the acronym POSSM - what does this stand for?
- What does Dr. Wolf mean by Deep Reading?
- "*Inference is a super important thing.*" What does Dr. Wolf's discussion on inference lead you to considering in your practice?
- What are the critical aspects of truth making when reading a text and truly comprehending it?
- After listening to Dr Wolf, what aspects of your practice and or future learning will you place greater focus on?

"*At the end of reading let there be joy.*" – Dr. Maryanne Wolf

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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