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Chit Chat Discussion Sheet

## Emily Hanford – Raising Awareness and Key Takeaways from Five Years of Research

Welcome to the Chit Chat between Carla McNeil of Learning MATTERS and APM reporter Emily Hanford. The purpose of this Chit Chat is to raise awareness of the work available by Emily Hanford and to also discuss in brief some of the key takeaways from her research over the past five years.

We encourage you to listen to the Chit Chat (35 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.

- Who is Emily Hanford?
- What publications has Emily produced that might be useful for you to dip in and out of as an individual and/or team?
- What did Emily discover as she began her inquiry into equity and opportunities for ALL students early in her investigation of reading instruction?
- Consider your own set of beliefs about how children learn to read, how you were taught to teach reading and where your team/school sits with reading instruction. Is this consistent throughout your school. Discuss this with your colleagues.
- What has the Science of Reading taught us about how we should best teach foundation skills in learning to read? Discuss your shared understandings about how you do these things in your setting and/or if this is a potential next step for you and your team.
- What did Emily and Carla recommend in terms of leadership and policy direction to improve literacy rates? How does this compare to what you currently have in place in your school?
- Do you have more to learn? What will your next steps be?



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.

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- 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?

