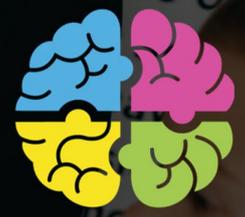


Knowledge shared = Knowledge²



Learning MATTERS

Chit Chat Discussion Sheet

Welcome to the Chit Chat between Carla McNeil of Learning MATTERS and Katie Tompkins, who is the head of Learning Support and the Literacy Leader at Wakatipu High School. During this Chit Chat, Carla and Katie discuss Structured Literacy in a secondary intervention setting.

We encourage you to listen to the Chit Chat (57 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.

- Katie spoke of the specific challenges or issues of literacy development that prompted Wakatipu High School to begin their journey with Structured Literacy. What parallels do you see within your school setting?
- What strategies or resources were most effective in building knowledge and understanding among department heads and the teaching team?
- The 'awareness to action' cycle was referred to during the discussion. Consider this cycle and discuss with your colleagues where you or your school may sit in relation to this.
- Katie spoke extensively around what a Structured Literacy approach looks like within the intervention setting at her school. What were the key elements she mentioned and how has their approach evolved over time?
- Why was it important to communicate the way that Structured Literacy differs from traditional intervention approaches? How was this distinction communicated and implemented across the school and to the wider community?
- The importance of continuing to upskill staff and build an understanding of the 'WHY' was highlighted by Katie as crucial. When thinking of your own setting consider and discuss possible ways to support this to occur.
- Katie said, "It is absolutely possible to make a difference." She shared some advice for educators or schools embarking on their own journey towards implementing Structured Literacy. What were your key takeaways from this?



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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