

Knowledge shared = Knowledge²



Chit Chat Discussion Sheet

Lorraine Hammond – Explicit Direct Instruction

Welcome to the Chit Chat between Carla McNeil of Learning MATTERS and Lorraine Hammond. During this Chit Chat, Carla and Lorraine discuss Explicit Direct Instruction and the difference this is making for many students and teachers in Australia.

We encourage you to listen to the Chit Chat (70 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.

- What were the three things the schools (in Western Australia) Lorraine began working with had in common?
- What is the 10% rule Lorraine has?
- When we are taking up something new, we have to see what it _____ like.
- What is meant by a low variation curriculum and how can you implement this all the while differentiating to various needs?
- What are we seeing occur in pilot schools in New Zealand?
- True understanding of teachers' knowledge and understanding can be seen in their instruction. What takes place in your Kura or setting to determine and validate where you are at with your understanding and practice?
- What does Lorraine suggest that we really need to get underway before we have a heavy focus on semantics and morphology amongst other more complex elements of Structured Literacy?
- What are the benefits of knowing about spelling rules?
- What has Lorraine learnt about influencing teacher change through her work with the Kimberley? How might we deal with teacher resistance after listening to Lorraine?
- In terms of learning difficulties, how does teaching in an evidence-based and explicit way support students who present with these? How do we assist students who take longer?



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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?

