

# Knowledge shared = Knowledge<sup>2</sup>



Learning MATTERS

## Chit Chat Discussion Sheet

### Nancy Hennessy – Structured Literacy and Comprehension

Welcome to the Chit Chat between Carla McNeil of Learning MATTERS, and Nancy Hennessy. During this Chit Chat, Carla and Nancy discuss Structured Literacy, emphasising its foundation in understanding the connection between language and literacy.

We encourage you to listen to the Chit Chat (48 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. We recommend having [Scarborough's Reading Rope](#) visible as you listen to this chat.

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 did Nancy share about what is foundational to understanding to what Structured Literacy is?
- Which of Reid Lyons ten maxims does Nancy share? Consider if you and your team agree with these and whether or not they are in place in your school or setting.
- What did Carla and Nancy discuss about this not being another 'fad' and taking the time to consider what we need to know before or at the early stages of our Structured Literacy implementation?
- What does Nancy mean by Structured Literacy being an umbrella term and what does this term tell us and include?
- What are the aspects of the word recognition part of the Reading Rope that we teach in a Structured Literacy approach to ensure students become accurate and automatic readers?
- Consider Nancy's message regarding the importance of comprehension. What did you take away from this and what might you consider in your practice?
- Consider how you differentiate instruction for your struggling readers. How does this align or not align with what Nancy and Carla were discussing about differentiation and acquiring literacy and language?
- What do Structured Literacy lessons remind us to do? Integrate \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_.
- What did Nancy mention about monitoring students, encouraging retrieval and giving corrective feedback and why is this so important? What will you take from this into your practice?
- Carla talked about a parallel - what was she referring to and what could you consider for your implementation?



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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