

Knowledge shared = Knowledge²



Learning MATTERS

Chit Chat Discussion Sheet

Tim Nelson, Andrea Harnett, and Megan Pentecost discuss Structured Literacy Implementation.

Welcome to the Chit Chat between Carla McNeil of Learning MATTERS, Tim Nelson of Lakeview School, Andrea Harnett of St Albans School, and Megan Pentecost of Martinborough School. During this Chit Chat, Carla, Tim, Andrea, and Megan discussed the practical impact of Structured Literacy, showcasing real-world results and providing inspiration and evidence for others considering or starting the implementation process.

We encourage you to listen to the Chit Chat (47 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.

- The leaders spoke about how they entered their Structured Literacy journeys and what this has involved. Discuss with your colleagues and make note of what they did and what they said proved beneficial. What aspects of these actions might be relevant for you?
- How did Megan and the team at Martinborough compartmentalise their implementation and set up various roles in their school for success long term?
- How as a leader did Andrea approach the volume of information regarding Structured Literacy, and what could others learn from this?
- How did Andrea alleviate the lack of consistency to implementation due to varied scopes and sequences being used in the school? What were the benefits of this?
- What did the principals share about the positive implications for teachers and students during Structured Literacy sessions?
- Where are you and your team at with building your leadership core? What might you need to consider next?
- What might the benefits be across the curriculum when we increase our ability to teach according to the science of learning, and a Structured Literacy approach?
- What recommendations and resources were given for leaders who are starting out with their Structured Literacy journeys?
- How did these leaders grow leaders within their schools and take people with them?

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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