

Providing the knowledge and tools
to implement a **STRUCTURED LITERACY**
approach in your school.



iDeaL[®]

Individualised Diagnostic explicit approach to Learning

for KURA

iDeaL is a **complete**,
comprehensive, and
cost-effective approach
that **lifts literacy outcomes**
for **ALL ākonga**.



Poipoia te kākano kia puawai”

Nurture the seed and it will blossom.

– He whakatauki

Powered by



Learning MATTERS

“

**New Zealand, we have a problem!
Our literacy rate is plummeting.”**

I am Carla McNeil: founder of Learning MATTERS, former school principal and classroom teacher, mother of two sons (one with dyslexia) and a recovering whole language advocate.

After years of research, professional development (both nationally and internationally), monitoring ākonga progress and working with 1000's of students with dyslexia, their teachers and families, we have seen the same incredible progress time and time again. **How?** By using an explicit and evidence-based approach to teaching literacy, known as **Structured Literacy**.

Structured Literacy is an approach that benefits all children, especially those with learning difficulties. This approach ensures nothing is left to chance when children are developing, mastering, and extending crucial literacy skills and knowledge.

The team at Learning MATTERS is passionate about lifting literacy outcomes in New Zealand. We absolutely believe this can be achieved through clear and consistent direction using a Structured Literacy approach.

As advocates for change, we set out to find an effective and efficient way to bring this teaching approach to all classrooms across New Zealand. A way that would see all teachers having the confidence and tools to truly make a difference to literacy rates in New Zealand.

This is why we developed the iDeaL Approach to Structured Literacy.

The iDeaL Approach provides classroom teachers, sencos, LSCs and school-based intervention teachers with the knowledge, appropriate assessments, reporting systems and multisensory resources to explicitly teach foundation literacy skills in a Structured Literacy approach.

We welcome you to **contact us** with any questions you have in regards to implementing Structured Literacy in your school.

Carla and the Learning MATTERS team



“

iDeaL is such an awesome resource for teachers just beginning this journey.

You have made it so accessible and our teachers are really growing in confidence with all the new learning!

Thanks for making this huge undertaking easier.”

Classroom teacher

Why Structured Literacy?

Structured Literacy is an approach to the teaching of reading, writing and spelling that is founded on an extensive multidisciplinary body of evidence-based research called The Science of Reading.

This research contains findings from many disciplines and encompasses Cognitive Psychology, Neuroscience, Linguistics and Education. Researchers have used a significant number of studies around the world to analyse the way the brain learns to read.

The science is clear; we must explicitly and consciously teach our children in ways that build and develop neural pathways when learning to read. When we understand how the brain builds this network, we are then able to recognise when parts of the network may not be wiring and firing. Intervention can then take place to develop these specific areas of need.

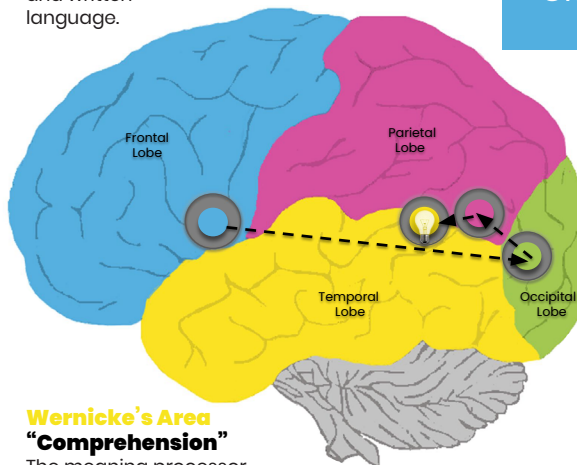
Nothing is left to chance when a Structured Literacy approach is used – no more frustration

and stress when trying to ‘guess’ words using the outdated three-cueing system!

This is an approach that supports ALL learners, not just those with learning differences. By explicitly teaching foundation skills and then building on these blocks, reading, spelling and writing success is achieved.

Broca's Area **“Phonological Awareness”**

Primarily responsible for processing speech sounds in order to produce spoken and written language.



Wernicke's Area **“Comprehension”**

The meaning processor – where we store word meanings, contexts and connotations of what we are reading.

Angular Gyrus **“Phonics Chip”**

Allows the reader to attach the sound (phoneme) to the correct symbol (grapheme). This is where we connect the spoken word to the written word.

Visual Word Form Area **“Letter Box”**

Primarily responsible for the rapid, effortless recognition of graphemes, rime units, syllables and whole words. The ‘orthographic processor’ develops progressively when learning to read in order to develop a sight word vocabulary.

We have just started on the journey with Learning MATTERS this year. However, our staff have found the learning so far to be really useful in learning about how the brain learns to read and how we can best meet the needs of learners in our classrooms.”

Classroom teacher

What Structured Literacy entails

The iDeaL Approach has been founded on the principles and elements of Structured Literacy. This teaching approach involves careful and close monitoring. Every session is planned and based on successes and challenges from previous sessions and includes the following elements:

It is diagnostic. An initial assessment is carried out to identify exactly what ākonga do or do not know, in relation to the building blocks of reading success.

It is systematic and cumulative. Lessons follow a comprehensive scope and sequence (teaching order) that is thorough, increases in complexity and teaches syllable types and syllable division strategies as well as spelling patterns and rules.

It is multisensory. Two or more senses are engaged simultaneously during explicit teaching sessions.

It uses evidence-based resources and repetition.

Knowledge and skills that have been taught in isolation are transferred to words and sentences using quality support materials and decodable texts.

It is explicit, direct and modified as necessary. Review is a core component of each lesson as

repetition is key to success and helps to build learner confidence. Ākonga know what to expect and they understand that each lesson is part of a sequence that assists with developing their reading brain.

Ākonga practise reading aloud.

They will read passages and/or texts out loud to build reading fluency using the skills they have been taught.

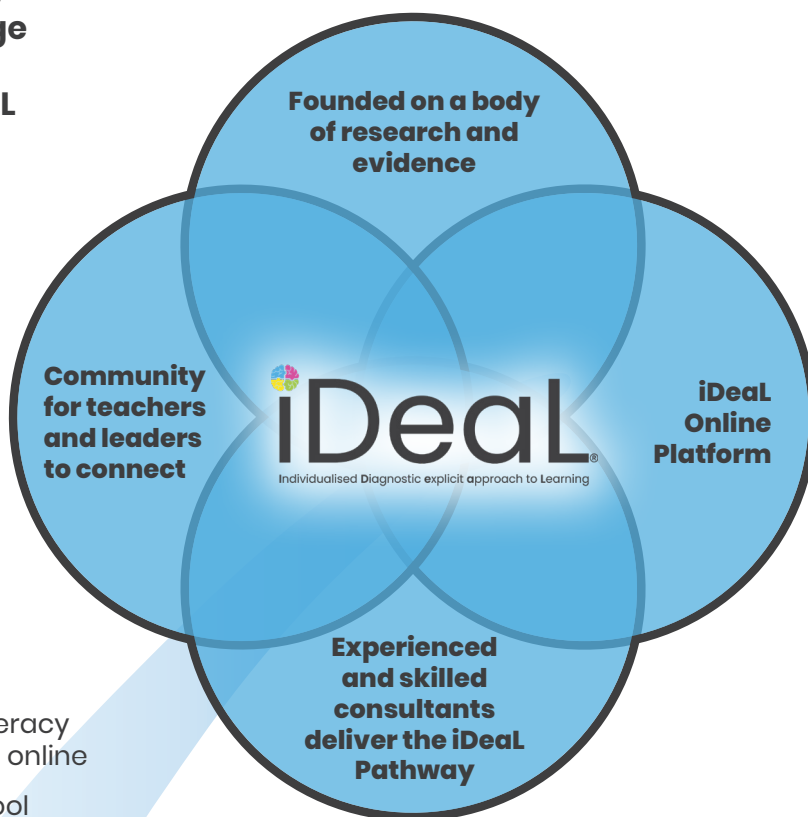
Ākonga receive prompt, corrective feedback.

About the iDeal Approach to Structured Literacy

The iDeal Approach encompasses the elements that lead to success by embedding the necessary knowledge and skills to teach a Structured Literacy approach which ensures ALL ākonga have fundamental literacy skills in place.

The iDeal Approach:

- Is founded on extensive national and international research perspectives and findings
- Provides professional learning and knowledge to teach explicitly
- Provides a systematic, cumulative and clear scope and sequence aligned to resources and decodable texts
- Is diagnostic and provides the tools to measure ākonga progress
- Is New Zealand's only online Structured Literacy platform, and can be accessed anywhere online
- Aligns consistent practice in a whole-school approach
- Creates an evidence based, consistent educational pathway for ALL ākonga and kaiako
- Provides an online community which connects and supports through shared experiences
- Is tried, tested and trusted by kaiako across New Zealand.



We offer the following implementation options for the iDeal Approach:

- Part school or full school with access to the iDeal Online Platform
- Individual user with access to the iDeal Online Platform
- Consultancy kura. Work with Learning MATTERS' Consultants to implement the iDeal Approach in your kura.

Learning MATTERS' Consultants are engaged for their knowledge and practice in facilitating evidence-based Structured Literacy and the change process, as well as their ability to build relational trust to guide and enable their peers through the iDeal Pathway of Delivery, supported with the iDeal Online Platform.



Throughout the school the children are finding it beneficial to learn in a structured way. All cultures are able to learn in this environment.

We have looked at managing learning in a similar way in our bilingual class. It keeps children engaged and motivated."

Classroom teacher

The iDeaL Online Platform

The core goal of the iDeaL Online Platform is ensuring kaiako are fully supported with materials and resources so their time and energy can be focused on teaching.

Informative instructional videos, professional development modules and specific teaching resources are provided. These support a diagnostic, systematic, and cumulative approach to the delivery of Structured Literacy through direct instruction in both mainstream classes and intervention settings.

Importance is placed on supporting kaiako to learn effective lesson sequences that are delivered using the principles of explicit instruction.

The iDeaL Online Platform also provides assessment tools, an automated 'start teaching from' tool and a progress-monitoring system.



It has helped us to identify the strengths and challenges of learners earlier than we have before.

It has helped us to identify their specific learning needs and to explicitly teach to these. They are accessing text like they haven't before."

Classroom teacher

Professional Online Learning Modules



Learn about: The Science of Reading, the principles and elements of Structured Literacy, the process of orthographic mapping, reading fluency, syllable types, syllable division, spelling rules and more

Modules contain carefully selected material, including videos and readings, and conclude with a quiz to check progress and understanding. These modules may be completed individually, in teams and or as a whole staff.

Assessment Tools



These determine your ākonga capabilities and immediate teaching needs in phonological awareness, alphabetic principle, and fluency.

Stage 1, 2, 3 and 4 assessments can be administered to all learners in Years 1-13, including those who are struggling with reading and writing. The ability to measure progress in the areas that sit beneath reading fluency gives greater insight into what might be 'missing' in your current teaching approach.

Individual, Group and Comparison Reporting



Ākonga data can be entered into the iDeaL Online Platform and will save automatically. Reports for individuals, groups, classes, cohorts and across a whole school can be generated and show you where to begin teaching. Progress and comparison reports generated throughout the year can be used to report to parents, school leaders and the Board of Trustees.

Teaching Resources



A comprehensive suite of resources are housed on the iDeaL Online Platform. These include scope and sequences for phonological awareness and alphabetic principle, teaching PowerPoints and lesson plans, instructional practice videos, over 100 systematic concepts organised into four stages, roll and read activities for building fluency, vocabulary activities and more than 50 electronic and printable decodable texts.

Using the iDeal Online Platform

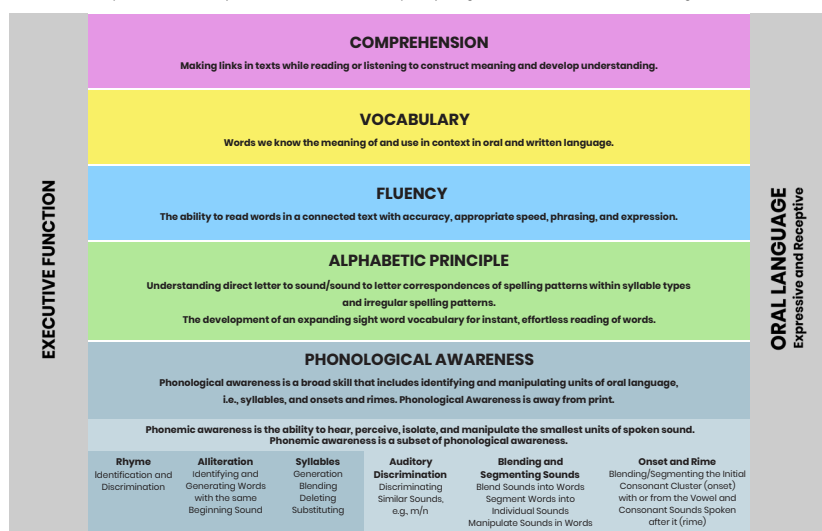
The content within the iDeal Online Platform (teaching materials and resources) has been carefully aligned with both the New Zealand Curriculum and Literacy Learning Progressions.

The iDeal Approach emphasises teaching that is clear, systematic and unambiguous for ākonga.

Assessments on the iDeal Online Platform identify the diagnostic needs and strengths of phonological awareness, alphabetic principle (coding knowledge and skills), fluency and comprehension, as outlined in the Building Blocks of Reading Success.

The Building Blocks of Reading Success

The components of literacy instruction which when explicitly taught ensure we do not leave reading to chance.



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Developed for years 0 to 8

Using Assessments

Diagnostic assessment is carried out to identify what ākonga do or do not know in relation to the Building Blocks of Reading Success.

Assessments not only measure ākonga strengths, but also identifies their next teaching and learning steps in phonological awareness and alphabetic principle. Information from easily administered assessments is entered onto the iDeal Online Platform, which creates auto-analysis reports for individuals, groups, classes, cohorts or across a whole school if required.

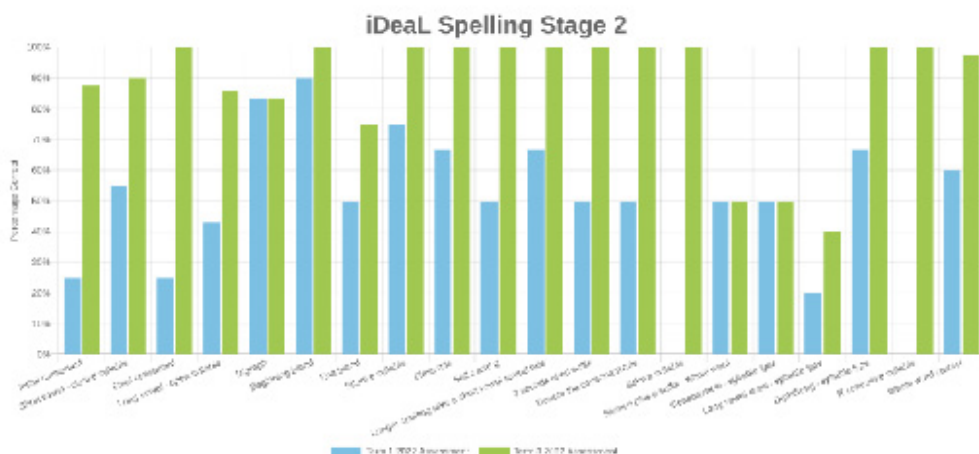
Begin Teaching From

The reports provide clear direction indicating where to begin teaching in the systematic iDeal **Scope and Sequence** (teaching order). This also enables identification of progress made over time.

It is systematic, comprehensive and cumulative. The scope and sequence is thorough, increases in complexity and teaches syllable types and syllable division strategies, as well as spelling rules. This enables kaiako to go as fast as they can, but as slow as they must.

The Scope and Sequence outlines are shown below:

- **iDeal Stage 1 Pre Concepts**
(5 weeks of 4 lessons and supporting resources)
- **iDeal Stage 1 Phonological Awareness**
(12 components : 3 levels for each)
- **iDeal Stage 1 Alphabetic Principle**
(22 concepts : 52 weeks of 4 lessons and supporting resources)
- **iDeal Stage 2 Spelling**
(35 concepts : 35 weeks of 4 lessons and supporting resources)
- **iDeal Stage 3 Spelling**
(37 concepts : 37 weeks of 4 lessons and supporting resources)
- **iDeal Stage 4 Spelling**
(30 concepts : 30 weeks of 4 lessons and supporting resources).



The assessment data determines exactly where to begin teaching from in the Scope and Sequence.

The '**BEGIN TEACHING FROM**' links directly to the appropriate teaching resources that are available and relevant to the Scope and Sequence.

* iDeaL downloadable decodable readers are provided for Stage 1 Alphabetic Principle only.

Investment for an annual membership*

Per User up to 9 Users	Per User up to 10 – 19 Users	20 or More Users	Consultancy Kura
\$259 + GST per user for single users or schools of up to 9 users	\$239 + GST per user for schools with up to 19 users	\$209 + GST per user for schools of 20 or more users	Contact our team to discuss consultancy investment

To find out more, head to our website www.learningmatters.co.nz – click [I want the iDeaL Approach](#).

* per user fee is for up to 35 students. This cost does not include consultancy fees. Please contact for further information on consultancy investment.

Why choose the iDeaL Approach to Structured Literacy?

- ✓ **Improved Teacher Knowledge**
Teachers will become increasingly knowledgeable as they work through carefully selected learning modules to help build their capabilities in order to successfully teach crucial literacy skills.
- ✓ **School wide consistent pedagogy and practice**
When implemented across a team, or school, a consistent and sustained pathway will begin to develop. Ākonga will build on foundation literacy skills with success because teachers know how to teach each and every brain to read.
- ✓ **Access to tools for assessment and all teaching resources**
Teaching at their fingertips. No planning necessary. Assessments which have been designed to guide and direct systematic teaching practices and provide a personalised learning plan for ākonga.
- ✓ **The ability to grow as a community of learners**
Become part of the iDeaL community and experience success together! Grow your knowledge alongside your colleagues as you work towards consistent evidence based knowledge and practices. Be a part of the iDeaL online community which connects and supports through shared experiences.
- ✓ **Confident teachers**
Increased ākonga outcomes and supportive and engaged whānau. No second guessing. Be reassured that you are not leaving reading to chance!



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