



Melissa

In September, six-year-old Melissa was one of the two children her class teacher was most concerned about.

She did not speak at all, other than in play with two particular children. She might whisper one word if pressed, but never initiated conversation. She had made almost no progress in reading during her time in school. Then, because of funding from Every Child a Reader, she was able to take part in daily one-to-one Reading Recovery lessons.



In her early Reading Recovery sessions, she would answer direct questions with one word. She could never think of anything to write. She did not talk about the books she was reading. She seemed withdrawn, and the school wondered if she perhaps had speech and language or learning difficulties.

Now she is bouncy and chatty. She puts up her hand and answers confidently and in a strong voice. She relates well to other pupils. This week she told the whole class all about her half-term holiday in France.

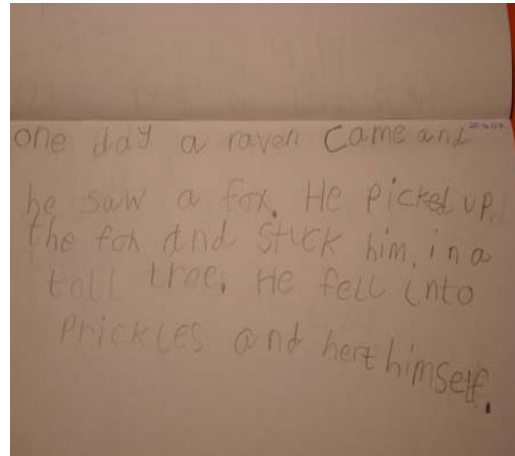
She engages completely with books and laughs a lot at what she reads. She has shown that she can understand a great deal, and has good inferential comprehension. She learns new vocabulary and concepts quickly, and is now seen to be a bright little girl. She makes up wonderful stories and is an independent writer – at 'choosing time' she often writes stories in the writing area.

This is what her writing looked like when she started her Reading Recovery lessons....



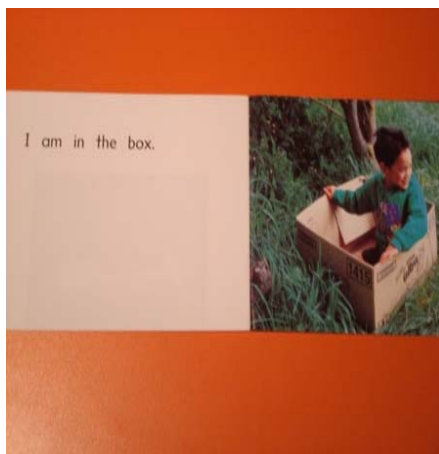
...and how it looks now.

She is now in the top group in her class for both reading and writing. Teacher assessments show she is at National Curriculum Level 2C for reading and 1A for writing – well on track for achieving or exceeding the nationally expected levels for her age when she takes her end of Key Stage 1 assessments next year.

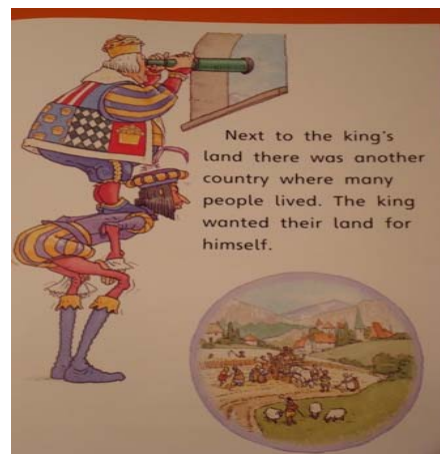


She is also very good at helping other children – for example, when she is paired with a weaker reader/writer in the ICT suite.

At the beginning of her lessons she could only 'read' very simple repetitive texts like this:



Now she can independently read a book like this:



All this has been achieved after just 43 hours of one-to-one teaching - 86 lessons over 20 weeks.

Her parents are delighted with her progress. Although she was always talkative with her parents and brother at home, they shared school's concerns and feel there has been a transformation in her since she began Reading Recovery.