

## **Innovative partnership to boost literacy in primary schools announced today**

A £10 million initiative to boost literacy among disadvantaged primary children – announced today by the DfES – will be supported and delivered through an innovative partnership between the DfES, the Institute of Education, the KPMG Foundation and other charitable organisations including the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

The 'Every Child a Reader' initiative will expand Reading Recovery programmes, which provide tailor-made one-to-one tuition for children who, at the end of their first year of school, have failed to learn the basics of reading and writing. Around 4,000 children with the severest literacy difficulties will benefit from the initiative, which will run over three years from September 2005 across 18 local education authorities.

Research has found that after just 20 weeks in Reading Recovery, 84 per cent of the least able children catch up with their class and are able to keep up, and 70 per cent achieve average results in national literacy tests at 11 years.

The additional funding will mean that many schools that might not have been able to retain their Reading Recovery Teachers will now be able to do so.

Julia Douëtil, a coordinator of the Reading Recovery National Network, which is based at the Institute of Education, says: "Children who don't learn to read go on to become tomorrow's illiterate adults, unemployable and disaffected. We are delighted that more young struggling readers will now have the chance, through Reading Recovery, to achieve their potential."

Co-coordinator Sue Bodman adds: "There are many reasons why children don't learn to read. Like general practitioners, classroom teachers often cannot deal with more complex literacy problems. The additional funding provided by this exciting enterprise will help to provide Reading Recovery teachers in more schools and will help us achieve our goal of making *Every Child A Reader*."

Mike Rake, KPMG UK Senior Partner and Chairman of the KPMG Foundation said: "The KPMG foundation is delighted to be working in partnership with the DfES, the Institute of Education and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation on this important project. It goes to the heart of the Foundation's objective of improving education opportunities for disadvantaged young people.

"I believe that businesses have a responsibility to work with Government to ensure that young people have the necessary skills for the modern workplace. Helping children to read from an early age is one of the best investments business and the Government can make."

**ends**

**For further information or to arrange an interview with Sue Bodman or Julia Douëtil,** contact Helen Green, press officer, 020 7612 6459, 07734 540 870, [h.green@ioe.ac.uk](mailto:h.green@ioe.ac.uk). Alternatively, phone Julia Douëtil 020 7612 6585 (work); 01483 476 215 (home) or Sue Bodman 029 2030 7052 (home). Written case studies of children whose literacy has improved through Reading Recovery are available.

**For Further information or comment on the KPMG Foundation please contact:**

Claire Le Masurier 020 7694 8369, 07795 074 360 or the KPMG press office on 020 7694 8773

**Notes for editors**

The Department for Education and Skills has pledged £5 million funding which will be distributed over three years.

**Reading Recovery** was brought to the UK from New Zealand by Dame Marie Clay in 1990. Between 1990 and 2004, over 3,300 teachers were trained as Reading Recovery teachers. At present, about 5,000 six-year olds receive the programme every year. On entering the programme, they are typically unable to read even a simple text, with one line of five or six words to the page and a repeated, highly predictable pattern, unable to spell more than their own name correctly. Without Reading Recovery, they would be predicted to achieve the lowest grades in national key stage 1 tests and to continue to fall further behind.

Over the last three years of national monitoring, the success rate has risen steadily, and in 2004, 84 per cent of the children who left the programme were regarded as having developed sufficient strategies to enable them to continue to consolidate their literacy learning within the classroom and to be able to access the mainstream curriculum alongside their peers. Further information about Reading Recovery from [www.readingrecovery.org.uk](http://www.readingrecovery.org.uk)

**The Institute of Education** is a college of the University of London, specialising in teaching, research and consultancy in education and related areas of social science and professional practice.

**The KPMG Foundation** was launched in 2001. The focus of the Foundation is on investing in educational programmes which can help tackle social disadvantage. The Foundation focuses on four key groups - young people with literacy difficulties; young refugees; young offenders and young people in care. In addition, KPMG have some significant award winning CSR programmes which support staff volunteering in schools, on homeless projects and environmental programmes. Some 25 per cent of KPMG staff and partners spend time volunteering in work time.

**Esmée Fairbairn Foundation** is one of the largest independent grantmaking foundations in the UK. It makes grants and loans in four programme areas: Arts & Heritage, Education, Environment and Social Change: Enterprise and Independence. The Foundation also takes initiatives itself where it believes important opportunities remain unexplored. In 2005 it expects to make grants of £28 million across the UK. For further information please visit [www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk](http://www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk)