



Newsletter 5

May 2007

Welcome to the fifth of termly newsletters for all those involved in *Every Child A Reader* – schools, local authorities, funding partners and advisers.

Every Child A Reader is a unique collaboration between charities, the business sector and government. The scheme is funding highly-skilled Reading Recovery teachers in inner-city schools.

National roll-out

In January we were able to take Gordon Brown and Alan Johnson to visit Lauriston Primary School to watch a Reading Recovery lesson and see the impact of ECaR on all the children in a Year 1 class. Max, the child in Reading Recovery, seemed quite unbothered by his visitors – not quite the same for the staff, but they all coped magnificently.

Plans for the national roll-out are firming up, with three new national Reading Recovery Coordinators and ten new local authority Teacher Leaders to be trained at the Institute of Education this September. Additional funding has been made available to schools across the country to train Reading Recovery teachers to lead ECaR in their school in the next school year. And from September 2008 there will be part-funding for schools to retain already trained teachers. The government have committed this through to 2010 -11.

Layered interventions

The layered intervention model - with Reading Recovery for the children with



The layered approach in Manchester

the greatest needs but lighter-touch interventions in place for children whose needs are not so severe – is really taking off. In Leicester, for example, schools have had training on the Fischer Family Trust Wave 3 intervention, delivered by teaching assistants, and can provide Reading Recovery for the lowest achieving 8 children in a year group, plus FFT Wave 3 for a further 18. In Bristol the Reading Recovery Teacher Leader, in the space of just two weeks, trained 38 Better Reading Partnership reading partners from a range of backgrounds to support children in their schools. In Birmingham, Fischer Family Trust Wave 3 is very well embedded, so that experienced RR teachers can take over from the Teacher Leader the training and support for schools. RR teachers will similarly be providing training and support to TAs on Devon's own Wave 3 programme, in their local cluster of schools.

Patrons of *Every Child A Reader*:

Professor Tim Brighouse Sir John Cassels Shirley Cramer Helen Edwards Julia Goldsworthy MP Meg Hillier MP
Jeremy Hunt MP Sir Digby Jones Baroness Helena Kennedy QC Professor Rod Morgan Nick Pearce
Sir Michael Rake Sir Steve Robson Professor Susan Tresman Stephen Twigg

Success at Lauriston Primary

At Lauriston Primary in Hackney, ECaR sits at the heart of the school's extensive and imaginative literacy provision. Phonics is well taught, with Year R and 1 using Ruth Miskin's scheme. Reading Recovery has been in the school since 1993. Two Reading Recovery teachers support the lowest attaining children; another uses her skills in her role as the school's EMA support teacher. Literacy interventions are well managed. A team made up of head, deputy, English Coordinator, EMA coordinator, RR teacher and SENCO meet regularly to plan, review and evaluate the additional personalised provision made for individuals and groups. All Year 1 children take part in Hackney's daily supported reading programme, in which class teachers, teaching assistants, volunteers and teachers in training work together in class with small groups for 20 minutes each day. The adults are trained by the Reading Recovery teacher to run pre-scripted guided reading or writing sessions based on early story books.

Lauriston is also a Reading Connects school, so is part of a network of schools which shares good practice about promoting reading for pleasure. All the staff are passionate about books and model being enthusiastic readers; there is a very successful 'Boys into Reading Will Go' initiative, and workshops for fathers on how to read with their children.

This means that children who are successful in ECaR go back into an environment that continues to develop them as keen and avid readers.

The results are outstanding. In a school serving an area of high social deprivation, 90% achieved nationally expected levels in Reading and in Writing in 2006 at the end of Key Stage 1 and 97% in Reading at the end of Key Stage 2 (including 61% at Level 5). The school bucks national trends for the attainment of boys and minority ethnic

groups. Boys, many Turkish and African Caribbean, are avid readers. In the current Year 6 (eleven year olds), ten children who had Reading Recovery when they were six are all predicted to achieve Level 4 (the expected level for their age) or above.

One such child was introduced to Gordon Brown when he visited Lauriston. This child has two older brothers – one has had a custodial sentence, one is in a secondary school Pupil Referral Unit because of severe behaviour difficulties. But this boy is highly motivated, a very good reader and predicted to achieve Level 5 this year.



Lauriston shows what Reading Connects and ECaR can achieve together. If you would like to become a Reading Connects school visit www.readingconnects.org.uk and complete the short join form.

The phonics conferences

At the end of April over 400 RR teachers attended a series of conferences to update them on current national policy on the teaching of early reading – with a particular focus on the Rose Review and systematic phonics teaching. The conferences were a great success, with teachers able to identify how ECaR fits with other new initiatives, the implications for their teaching, and the ways in which they can make sure that the child's experience in RR harmonises with what they will in future be experiencing in the classroom.

If you would like more information on the links between ECaR and national phonics developments, go to www.everychildareader.org

Read more about Reading Recovery at www.readingrecovery.org.uk. If you have a story to tell about *Every Child a Reader* in your school, let us know – email jean.gross@kpmg.co.uk

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