



Decodable Readers Australia
eBook for Parents





Guide for Parents

A parent never considers the process of learning to read until they start teaching their own children at home. Learning to read is not a simple process and is one that requires proper teaching of various skills. For your child to succeed in literacy and excel their reading abilities, you will need to ensure that the child knows how sounds are represented in print. Decodable Readers Australia uses the proven decodable method, along with engaging stories and beautiful imagery to support the explicit teaching of reading.

Who are Decodable Readers Australia

Decodable Readers Australia is a movement created by three parents and educators who decided there was a better way to help children who were struggling to read. "Having had children of our own that were challenged by the reading process, and having taught within a system saturated with policies, procedures and opinions we sought the answers for a foolproof pathway for children to follow on their 'learning to read' journey, that was backed by cognitive science."

Decodable Readers Australia is unique in that we are the only beginner reader series to offer over 20 books in each level, allowing children to master each set of phonics before progressing. We also embrace the five essential components of learning to read, incorporate minimal sight words, and engage children in Australian themed stories.

Our goal and passion is to improve literacy results around the world. At Decodable Readers Australia, we are dedicated to creating resources that prevent illiteracy. We are firm believers that literacy not only has the ability to encourage children to love reading but ultimately, has the power to break the poverty cycle.

What are decodable books and why are they important?

For children to become successful readers they must be able to crack the alphabetic code through a systematic synthetic phonics approach. This approach has proven time and time again as the most effective way to teach reading and is backed by research. If children can't decode the words on a page they will fail in their journey to access text.

Children must be explicitly taught knowledge of letters and sounds and the skills of sounding out and blending. But this is not enough to know how to read. The knowledge and skills must be practised over and over to achieve mastery. Without decodable readers, this practice cannot take place.

Decodable readers are the conduit between phonics and reading. Children need them to build the necessary skills so they become proficient readers and can access the limitless opportunities of skilled reading.

In each level, children are extensively supported as they master each stage of reading and will love getting to know the Aussie characters.

Each level offers an individual set of the 20 books. Our Early Readers offer an additional 10 books per level with a simpler text as a stepping-stone for more vulnerable learners.

What is phonics?

Phonics is best described as the relationship between the sounds of speech and the letters that represent them. For example, a child is taught to listen to the sounds N/a/t (our main character!), learn how those sounds are represented in print and then how to blend them together to say, "Nat." Phonics instruction is the method that is used to teach these relationships and skills. Our decodable readers introduce new sounds at each level and offer instruction on how to help your child master the reading of new words.

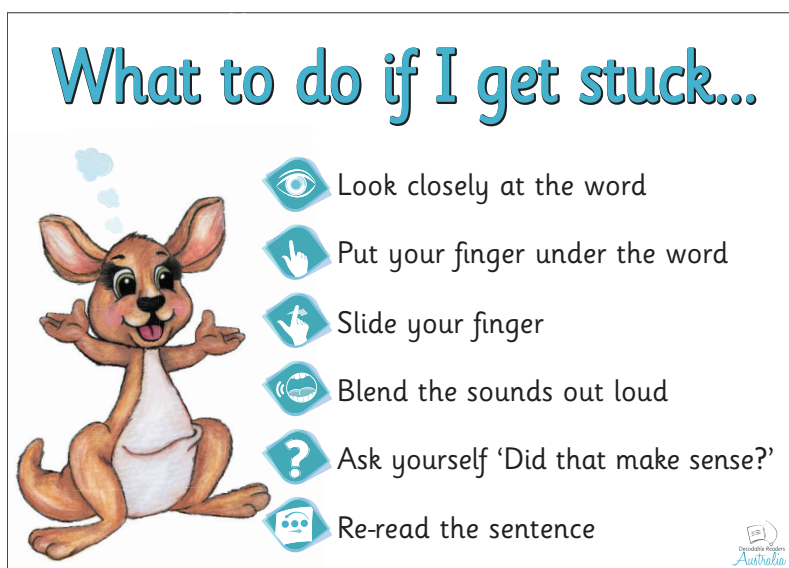
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8
Sound Introduction: s, a, t, p, i, n, nn	Sound Introduction: m, d, g, o, c, k, ck, e, u, r, ss	Sound Introduction: b, h, f, l, j, v, w, x, y, z, ll, ff, zz	Sound Introduction: sh, ch, th (them), th (thin), qu, ng, wh, ph, g (gent), c (circle), gg, bb, tt, rr, pp, dd, mm	Sound Introduction: ai (trail), ay (play), ea (beach), ee (tree), ie (pie), igh (sight), oa (boat), ow (slow), ew (few), ue (cue)	Sound Introduction: oi (soil), oy (boy), oo (book), oo (moon), ou (loud), ow (cow), er (term), ir (stir), ur (turn), ar (star), or (for)	Sound Introduction: a_e, e_e, i_e, o_e, u_e, a (baby), e (we), y (funny), i (find), y (sky), o (go)	Sound Introduction: aw (draw), ew (drew), ou (touch), air (chair), are (dare), ear (pear), eer (cheer), ore (more), dge (edge), tch (match)

What about sight words and how do I teach those?

Your child will encounter high frequency words that may contain letter/sounds that have not been taught yet. These are sometimes referred to as sight words. It is important that these words are taught in the same way as any word, using synthetic phonics (not by memorisation of the whole word). To teach this, identify the known parts (letters/sounds) and teach the letter/sound correspondence that are unfamiliar. Our Online Library - SOR Squad videos cover the teaching of sight words. We also have our 'Sight Words To Learn' section in each level that will go through the sight words that will be encountered in the books of that level.

How can I support my child's reading when they are reading decodable text?

It is important that a child does not randomly guess or use the pictures to work out unknown words. Focus should be on the letters and sounds, and the process of blending those together to read the word. To support this strategy, you can download the Decoding Poster 'What to do if I get stuck?' from our website in the free resources section.



Some key features when supporting the reading process

1. Use a tracking finger to hold the position of reading and have your child slide it along as they read.
2. If an error is made, ask your child to try decoding the word again. Then re-read the complete sentence will assist with fluency and understanding.
3. If your child forgets the sounds when decoding, click on the word to hear the text being read aloud.
4. At the end of each page, click the 'read to me' button to check accuracy and hear the text being read aloud.
5. At the end of the book use the comprehension questions to check for understanding and to discuss the story.
6. Celebrate each book and the effort your child has just given!

It is recommended that students repeat reading the variety of texts in each level until they build a confident level of fluency before moving onto the next level.

What if my child is reading every word slowly and sounding out every word?

Some children take a little bit longer to develop automaticity in reading and that's ok. The process of sounding out words may seem laborious, but this is part of the process. Learning to read takes time and hard work! Repeated practice is the key! If you suspect learning difficulties or learning delays, discuss this with your school.

My child cannot read at all. Can Decodable Readers Australia help?

Yes, Decodable Readers Australia provides a complimentary book with the Level 1 readers which guides parents to teach and assess the necessary pre-reading skills that a child must develop before reading print. Our Online Library also offers a range of phonemic awareness videos (pre-reading skills) that help students begin their reading journey.

My child has a learning disability (i.e. dyslexia). How can Decodable Readers Australia help?

Decodable Readers Australia introduces sounds systematically in each level and gives the child lots of practice enabling them to master each set of sounds. Our new Early Readers series offers achievable texts that are low word count, predominantly single syllable words, larger font and are beneficial as a stepping stone for children with learning difficulties.

How do I choose which readers are suitable for my child?

Assessing your child on the sounds that they know will help to guide parents as to which level to begin with. It is important to remember that children also need to be able to blend and segment the sounds as well.

We have a reading guideline available on Page 6 which highlights which book level is suitable for your child when they reach a certain age or school year.

How do I purchase resources for my child?

You can order through our online shop on the website and pay using your credit/debit card.

<https://www.decodablereadersaustralia.com.au/pages/shop-page>

You can also activate your Online Library subscription through our website.

<https://draonline.com.au/?a=register>

What else can I do to support my child's reading?

Your child is working on the very important phase of 'word decoding' which makes up one of two crucial elements of a skilled reader. The other component is Language Comprehension. To foster the development of Language Comprehension it is important to read to your child using story books and factual texts that have language rich vocabulary. Engage your child in deep discussions about the texts, the content, the meaning, and foster a love of reading for excitement.

Where can I go to learn more?

If you want to learn more, check out our Learning Lounge for educators (teachers and parents). We dive deeper into the research behind the effective methodologies of teaching reading.

<https://www.decodablereadersaustralia.com.au/pages/sor-learning-lounge>



Decodable Readers Australia Series 1 Benchmarks



READING GUIDELINES

School Year/Grade	Term	Chronological Age	Decodable Readers Australia Levelled Readers
Prep / Kindergarten	Term 1	4 yrs - 7m - 5 yrs - 7m	Level 1
Prep / Kindergarten	Term 2	4 yrs - 10m - 5 yrs - 10m	Level 2
Prep / Kindergarten	Term 3	5 yrs - 1m - 6 yrs - 1m	
Prep / Kindergarten	Term 4	5 yrs - 4m - 6 yrs - 4m	Level 3
Grade 1	Term 1	5 yrs - 7m - 6 yrs - 7m	Level 4
Grade 1	Term 2	5 yrs - 10m - 6 yrs - 10m	Level 5
Grade 1	Term 3	6 yrs - 1m - 7 yrs - 1m	Level 6
Grade 1	Term 4	6 yrs - 4m - 7 yrs - 4m	
Grade 2	Term 1	6 yrs - 7m - 7 yrs - 7m	Level 7
Grade 2	Term 2	6 yrs - 10m - 7 yrs - 10m	Level 8
Grade 2	Term 3	7 yrs - 1m - 8 yrs - 1m	
Grade 2	Term 4	7 yrs - 4m - 8 yrs - 4m	Age appropriate chapter books

* For a child to make successful progress through the stages in this guide he/she must be engaged in a program that explicitly teaches systematic, synthetic phonics.



Level 1

Introduces:
s, a, t, p, i, n, nn

10 BOOKS

Early Readers Fiction

WORD COUNT - 17 - 31

Early Readers have a low word count (for vulnerable learners or students in foundation), words with just 3-4 sounds and a larger font.



5 BOOKS

Non-fiction

WORD COUNT - 21 - 31

This nonfiction series is a mixture of scientific facts and recounts about real world events, procedures and other informative information.



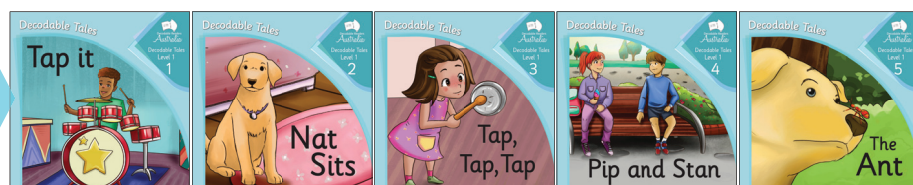
Level 1 & 2 Non-fiction sold together.

5 BOOKS

Decodable Tales

WORD COUNT - 19 - 37

This series of decodable readers is a collection of stories to widen student's imaginations and engage them in a range of wonderful narratives.



Level 1 & 2 Decodable Tales sold together.

20 BOOKS

Main Fiction

WORD COUNT - 12 - 50

This series engage children in Australian themed stories using fun Aussie characters. Pre and post reading activities, and vocab word to learn.



Level 1

40
books

1

Level 2

Includes: Level 1 sounds

Introduces:
m, d, g, o, c, k, ck, e, u, r, ss

10 BOOKS

Early Readers Fiction

WORD COUNT - 38 - 54

Early Readers have a low word count (for vulnerable learners or students in foundation), words with just 3-4 sounds and a larger font.



5 BOOKS

Non-fiction

WORD COUNT - 58 - 116

This nonfiction series is a mixture of scientific facts and recounts about real world events, procedures and other informative information.



Level 1 & 2 Non-fiction sold together.

5 BOOKS

Decodable Tales

WORD COUNT - 42 - 67

This series of decodable readers is a collection of stories to widen student's imaginations and engage them in a range of wonderful narratives.



Level 1 & 2 Decodable Tales sold together.

20 BOOKS

Main Fiction

WORD COUNT - 75 - 142

This series engage children in Australian themed stories using fun Aussie characters. Pre and post reading activities, and vocab word to learn.



satpinmd
gockckeur

Level 2

40
books

2

Levels 1 and 2 = 80 BOOKS!

10 BOOKS

Early Readers Fiction

WORD COUNT - 49 - 84

Early Readers have a low word count (for vulnerable learners or students in foundation), words with just 3-4 sounds and a larger font.

10 BOOKS

Non-fiction

WORD COUNT - 119 - 192

This nonfiction series is a mixture of scientific facts and recounts about real world events, procedures and other informative information.

10 BOOKS

Decodable Tales

WORD COUNT - 49 - 152

This series of decodable readers is a collection of stories to widen student's imaginations and engage them in a range of wonderful narratives.

20 BOOKS

Main Fiction

WORD COUNT - 145 - 242

This series engage children in Australian themed stories using fun Aussie characters. Pre and post reading activities, and vocab word to learn.

s a t p i n m d
g o c k c k e u r
b h f l j v w x y z

3

Level 3

50
books



10 BOOKS

Early Readers Fiction

WORD COUNT - 94 - 133

Early Readers have a low word count (for vulnerable learners or students in foundation), words with just 3-4 sounds and a larger font.



10 BOOKS

Non-fiction

WORD COUNT - 211 - 370

This nonfiction series is a mixture of scientific facts and recounts about real world events, procedures and other informative information.



10 BOOKS

Decodable Tales

WORD COUNT - 187 - 321

This series of decodable readers is a collection of stories to widen student's imaginations and engage them in a range of wonderful narratives.



20 BOOKS

Main Fiction

WORD COUNT- 174 - 508

This series engage children in Australian themed stories using fun Aussie characters. Pre and post reading activities, and vocab word to learn.



s, a, t, p, i, n, m, d, g (girl), o,
c (cat), k, ck, e, u, r, b, h, f, l, j, v,
w, x, y, z, sh, ch, th (them), th (thin),
qu, ng, wh, ph, g (gem), c (city)

4

Level 4
50
books

Level 5

Includes: Level 1, 2, 3 and 4 sounds

Introduces: ai (trail), ay (play),
ea (beach), ee (tree), ie (pie),
igh (sight), oa (boat), ow (slow),
ew (few), ue (cue)

10 BOOKS

Early Readers Fiction

WORD COUNT - 116 - 149

Early Readers have a low word count (for vulnerable learners or students in foundation), words with just 3-4 sounds and a larger font.



10 BOOKS

Non-fiction

WORD COUNT - 350 - 436

This nonfiction series is a mixture of scientific facts and recounts about real world events, procedures and other informative information.



10 BOOKS

Decodable Tales

WORD COUNT - 305 - 412

This series of decodable readers is a collection of stories to widen student's imaginations and engage them in a range of wonderful narratives.



10 BOOKS

Main Fiction

WORD COUNT - 578 - 742

This series engage children in Australian themed stories using fun Aussie characters. Pre and post reading activities, and vocab word to learn.



Level 5 & 6 Main Fiction sold together.

New Sounds:
ai (trail), ay (play),
ea (beach), ee (tree), ie (pie),
igh (sight), oa (boat), ow (slow),
ew (few), ue (cue)

Level 5

40
books

5

10 BOOKS

Early Readers Fiction

WORD COUNT - 125 - 171

Early Readers have a low word count (for vulnerable learners or students in foundation), words with just 3-4 sounds and a larger font.

10 BOOKS

Non-fiction

WORD COUNT - 411 - 515

This nonfiction series is a mixture of scientific facts and recounts about real world events, procedures and other informative information.

10 BOOKS

Decodable Tales

WORD COUNT - 399 - 505

This series of decodable readers is a collection of stories to widen student's imaginations and engage them in a range of wonderful narratives.

10 BOOKS

Main Fiction

WORD COUNT - 578 - 742

This series engage children in Australian themed stories using fun Aussie characters. Pre and post reading activities, and vocab word to learn.



Level 5 & 6 Main Fiction sold together.

New Sounds:

oi (soil), oy (boy), oo (book),
oo (moon), ou (loud), ow (cow),
er (term), ir (stir), ur (turn), ar (star),
or (for)

6

Level 6
40
books

10 BOOKS

Early Readers Fiction

WORD COUNT - 123 - 187

Early Readers have a low word count (for vulnerable learners or students in foundation), words with just 3-4 sounds and a larger font.



10 BOOKS

Non-fiction

WORD COUNT - 434 - 587

This nonfiction series is a mixture of scientific facts and recounts about real world events, procedures and other informative information.



10 BOOKS

Decodable Tales

WORD COUNT - 437 - 518

This series of decodable readers is a collection of stories to widen student's imaginations and engage them in a range of wonderful narratives.



10 BOOKS

Main Fiction

WORD COUNT - 684 - 982

This series engage children in Australian themed stories using fun Aussie characters. Pre and post reading activities, and vocab word to learn.



Level 7 & 8 Main Fiction sold together.

New Sounds:
a_e, e_e, i_e, o_e, u_e,
a (baby), e (we), y (funny),
i (find), y (sky), o (go)

Level 7

40
books

7



Level 8

Includes: Level 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 sounds

Introduces: aw (draw), ew (drew), ou (touch), air (chair), are (dare), ear (pear), eer (cheer), ore (more), dge (edge), tch (match)

10 BOOKS

Early Readers Fiction

WORD COUNT - 143 - 227

Early Readers have a low word count (for vulnerable learners or students in foundation), words with just 3-4 sounds and a larger font.

10 BOOKS

Non-fiction

WORD COUNT - 573 - 687

This nonfiction series is a mixture of scientific facts and recounts about real world events, procedures and other informative information.

10 BOOKS

Decodable Tales

WORD COUNT - 493 - 578

This series of decodable readers is a collection of stories to widen student's imaginations and engage them in a range of wonderful narratives.

10 BOOKS

Main Fiction

WORD COUNT - 684 - 982

This series engage children in Australian themed stories using fun Aussie characters. Pre and post reading activities, and vocab word to learn.



Level 7 & 8 Main Fiction sold together.

New Sounds:
aw (draw), ew (drew), ou (touch),
air (chair), are (dare), ear (pear),
eer (cheer), ore (more),
dge (edge), tch (match)

8

Level 8
40
books

Levels 1 - 8 TOTAL = 340 BOOKS!

Help Your Kids Read at Home With Decodable Readers Australia Online Library

Our Online Library allows children to learn to read at home, read independently, be read to, and gives them the ability to tap each word to hear the corresponding sounds. The Online Library contains the entire collection of books, learning videos and lessons to help children increase their literacy skills. Your child will then be able to read their favourite books at home or out and about. Each collection of stories can be enjoyed by listening to the professional audio or read aloud with the support of tapping and hearing the word if required.

<https://draonline.com.au/parent-trial/>

An Online Library with a Difference!

Join the online library that provides the necessary phonics resources for teachers and students! All our much-loved decodable readers and resources are now accessible on any device with a simple login. PLUS loads of teaching resources and lessons for teachers implementing a systematic, synthetic approach to teaching reading.



Contact / Links

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