



Equipping Literacy Assistants

**Overview of the Literacy Program
for Literacy Assistants**

The Literacy Program

- Thank you for volunteering to be a Literacy Assistant.
- You are now part of a team of volunteers with a mission and a calling...
- to place God at the centre of education,
- and to assist students in the reading and writing of the English language.

With God, we will make a difference

- If God is for us who can be against us? (Rom 8:31)
- There are many pressures world-wide to take God out of our schools.
- Without a vision the people perish. (Prov 29:18)
- Australia, New Zealand, USA, Britain and European nations are closing the door to God-centred education in schools.

Let's uphold our Christian heritage

- By the simple act of serving our children, we can help our nation become a light to other nations.
- Our literacy program can make a difference because we have a heart for God and a heart for children.
- “Not by might, not by power, but by my Spirit,” says the Lord (Zech 4:6)

The 'why'

Why do we need Literacy Assistants?

- Large class sizes in schools
- Teachers lack time for individual assistance
- In the one class, children are at different ability levels.
- Students must learn to read at their own level.

Solving the problem

- Some schools have libraries of books donated from overseas.
- Is a well-stocked library the answer to illiteracy?
- Can the children read them?
- What must be done first?

This course is based on a tried and proven method

- Developed in the 1970s by Marie Clay, N.Z. known as “Reading Recovery”.
- One-on-one assistance for children who are failing to read by the end of their first year in school.
- In countries where English is a second language, we work with students in Year 3 (around age 8)

The goal

- To bring children up to the national standard for their year level
- Then the student will exit the program.

Who will decide which children are on the program?

- Students will be tested using the *Running Records* test, and a basic phonics test.
- Some children may need assistance in oral language before starting the program.
- You, the Literacy assistant, may be asked to assist with the testing. You will learn how to do this.

What will you learn during this training?

- To find out the problems children are having in the speaking, reading and writing of English.
- How to work with students on their weaknesses
- To test regularly
- To report on student progress

What will you do?

- Work with about 10 children individually (one-on-one)
- Spend about 20 minutes to half an hour with each student in your care
- Work with each student for 3 sessions per week or more
- Teach your students the alphabet sounds, how to read words, how to read small stories, and how to write short sentences

What support will you be given?

- You will not work alone.
- The classroom teacher will communicate with you and discuss how the students are progressing.
- The classroom teacher must draw up a time table for you, so that you know the times for one-on-one sessions, and what to do in other time slots.
- The classroom teacher will set aside time for discussion with you. This could be during morning tea or lunch time once a week.

When to take the children out of class

- During any classroom literacy activity: oral or written.
- It is better that the student is working with you, than being present in a class where they are not understanding
- The classroom teacher will tell you when to take the students out.
- The classroom teacher will make a timetable for you.

- There are some subjects that children should not miss! They should not be taken out of class.
- During these subjects the Literacy Assistant can work with another class, or quietly work alongside students in the class.

When not to take the students out

- Maths
- Bible period
- Phys ed
- Art
- Vernacular language

Role of the coordinator

The coordinator is a teacher in the school or community who is responsible for:

- the overall well-being of the Literacy Assistant
- communicating with the Literacy Assistant to relay important information
- looking at student record sheets and collecting data

The Literacy Kit

- Contains the resources you will need.
- These resources are for you to use with the students and for you to look after.

Revision

- What will you learn in the course?
- What will you be doing as a literacy assistant?