

Decodable Readers  
*Australia*

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."

Decodable Readers Australia is unique in that we are the only beginner reader series to offer 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?

Decode means to crack. That's exactly what children must learn to do to become successful readers - crack the code! Systematic synthetic phonics has been proven time and time again as the most effective way to teach reading. If children can't decode the words on a page they will fail in their journey to access text.

When ready, children must be taught knowledge of letters and sounds and the skills of sounding 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.

## What are 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 what those sounds look like in print and then how to blend them together to say Nat. Phonics instruction is the methods that are 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.

## What are sight words?

A sight word is a word that can be effortlessly read when seen.

Children must learn that there is only one strategy required to read unfamiliar words. That strategy is to decode. Telling them to sometimes decode but sometimes try to remember the word as one whole unit can be very confusing.

It is important for parents to understand that when children are learning to read using a systematic, synthetic approach, they will come across words that have a far more advanced code than what they have learnt.

It is for this reason that 'sight words', 'high frequency words', 'tricky words', need to be introduced, explained and decoded. Once children have learned the strategy of decoding, this will help improve reading fluency and consider all words 'sight words'.

## Teaching reading systematically - how the level system works

Our decodable readers have been designed to incorporate the development of phonemic awareness, phonics, comprehension, vocabulary and fluency. With 8 levels and 20 books in each level, children are extensively supported as they master each stage of reading and will love getting to know the Aussie characters.

Below are the Decodable Readers Australia - Series 1 Benchmarks that highlights the levels children will work through as they get more confident with each component of learning to read.



# Decodable Readers Australia Series 1 Benchmarks



## READING GUIDELINES

\*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.

Book Level	School Year/Grade	Chronological Age
Development of Phonological Awareness Skills.	Prep/Kindergarten Term 1	4 years 7 months – 5 years 7 months
Level 1 Readers	Prep/Kindergarten Term 2	4 years 10 months – 5 years 10 months
Level 2 Readers	Prep/Kindergarten Term 3	5 years 1 month – 6 years 1 month
Level 3 Readers	Prep/Kindergarten Term 4	5 years 4 months – 6 years 4 months
Level 4 Readers	Year/Grade 1 Term 1	5 years 7 months – 6 years 7 months
Level 5 Readers	Year/Grade 1 Term 2	5 years 10 months – 6 years 10 months
Level 6 Readers	Year/Grade 1 Term 3	6 years 1 month – 7 years 1 month
Level 7 Readers	Year/Grade 1 Term 4	6 years 4 months – 7 years 4 months
Level 8 Readers	Year/Grade 2 Term 1	6 years 7 months – 7 years 7 months

## Snapshot Level 1 – s, a, t, p, i, n

Level 1 includes a complimentary guide on Phonemic awareness, which is the ability to hear and manipulate spoken words, is critical to reading success. Each book in Level 1 contains a phonemic awareness activity to provide ongoing “training” for children in learning to hear and work with sounds. In the second prereading activity, the high frequency words, used within each story are introduced. Through literal, inferential and evaluative questioning, children are given the opportunity to share and discuss what they have read and a vocabulary focus explicitly teaches a new word relating to each.

Level 1 introduces the sounds s,a,t,p,i,n and offers a number of comprehension activities, vocabulary word to learn and is perfect for explicit instruction or as home readers.



## Snapshot Level 2 – s, a, t, p, i, n, m, d, g, o, c, k, ck, e, u, r

Level 2 includes a complimentary guide on how to conduct a Guided Reading session. This level provides the opportunity to observe children reading from texts that are at their instructional level. Each Level 2 book contains a pre-reading activity to help set a purpose for reading and to engage each learner. In the second pre-reading activity, the sight words used within each story are introduced.

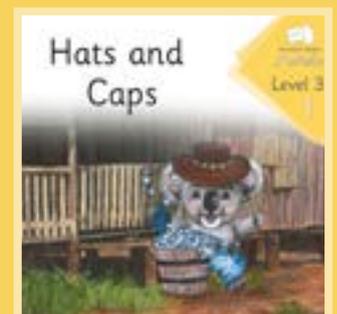
Level 2 introduces the new sounds m, d, g, o, c, k, ck, e, u, r and contains a post-reading activity that ensures children have made connections and understood the



## Snapshot Level 3 – s, a, t, p, i, n, m, d, g, o, c, k, ck, e, u, r, b, h, f, l, j, v, w, x, y, z

Level 3 includes a complimentary guide on Prior Knowledge. This level is a combination of what we know, what we believe, and what we have experienced. Young children, who are learning to read, have not yet had the opportunity to build a wealth of prior experiences and knowledge. As teachers, it is our responsibility to help provide opportunities and experiences, and share information for children to learn about the world in which they live. Each level 3 book contains pre-reading discussion questions, information about the theme of the story and an introduction to the sight words within each story.

Level 3 introduces the new sounds r, b, h, f, l, j, v, w, x, y, z and offers post-reading activities that have been provided to ensure the children have made connections, understood the text, and to explicitly teach new vocabulary.



## Snapshot Level 4 – 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)

Level 4 includes a complimentary guide on Developing Fluency. In Level 4, children explore reading fluency. is the crucial link between decoding and comprehension. Children must have complete control over the processing of the text, so they can focus on developing deeper meaning.

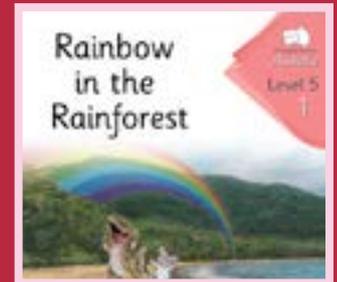
Each Level 4 book contains a pre-reading, teacher directed fluency activity and an introduction to the sight words within each story. Subsequently, the post-reading activities have been provided to ensure that children have made connections, understood the text, and to explicitly teach new vocabulary.



**Snapshot Level 5 and 6** – ai (trail), ay (play), ea (beach), ee (tree), ie (pie), igh (sight), oa (boat), ow (slow), ew (few), ue (cue), oi (soil), oy (boy), oo (book), oo (moon), ou (loud), ow (cow), er (term), ir (stir), ur (turn), ar (star), or (for)

Level 5 and 6 includes a complimentary guide on Vocabulary Instruction explaining the importance of teaching word knowledge indirectly and directly Vocabulary is a key component of effective reading instruction and ultimately determines how well children can comprehend texts.

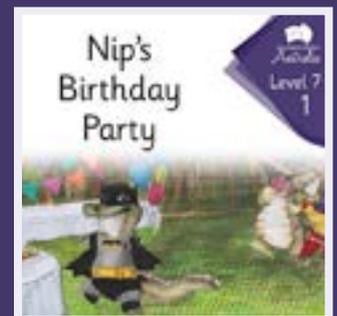
Level 5 and 6 are a combined set of 20 books which introduce more complex sounds, new vocabulary and include a reduced number of pictures to build confidence in reading longer texts. The pre-reading activities help to activate prior knowledge and introduce new vocabulary. The post-reading activities include questions to ensure children have comprehended the text and a revision of new vocabulary.



**Snapshot Level 7 and 8** – a\_e, e\_e, i\_e, o\_e, u\_e, a (baby), e (we), y (funny), i (find), y (sky), o (go), aw (draw), ew (drew), ou (touch), air (chair), are (dare), ear (pear), eer (cheer), ore (more), dge (edge), tch (match)

Level 7 and 8 includes a complimentary guide on Checking for Understanding explaining the questioning techniques that can be used to ensure children have derived meaning from the text. To comprehend, children must be able to decode the words, make connections between what they read and what they already know and think deeply about what they are reading.

Level 7 and 8 are a combined set of 20 books which introduce more complex sounds, new vocabulary and include a reduced number of pictures to build confidence in reading longer texts. The pre-reading activities help to activate prior knowledge and introduce new vocabulary. The post-reading activities include questions to ensure children have comprehended the text and a revision of new vocabulary.



## Help Your Kids Read at Home - Decodable Readers Phonics Based Apps

Along with our readers, our phonics Apps allow 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. Each of our phonics Apps contain the entire level collection and extra pre-reading and postreading activities to help children increase their literacy skills. When you purchase the app, you will have access to all 20 books from that level on your device. 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.



# FAQ

## 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.

## 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 provides 20 books per level to give the child lots of practice enabling them to master each set of sounds.

## 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 3 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.

## How can I access resources for my child at their school or library?

If you would like to access a hard copy of our decodable readers, please contact your local library and/or librarian or contact your school administration and request they purchase our books. Alternatively, you can access the books via our downloadable App available on iOS. On Page 6, you will find more information on the Decodable Readers Phonics Based Apps and how they can help your child read at home.





## Contact / Links

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