

Wakefield School
Edward Street
WAKEFIELD

6 March 2005

Last year (2004) I attended a seminar by your company which presented Lexia software to an interested group of people. The presentation was informative and formatted in such a way as to provide a good balance of information with questions from the floor.

Subsequently, Wakefield School trialed Lexia Reading SOS and has been using this programme with ten senior children every day for half hour periods. As a teacher with limited computer skills, I have been totally impressed with the ease with which we were able to install and run the Lexia Programme. Of more importance, however, has been the reaction of the children and the impact Lexia has had on their reading. Some of these children have always struggled to read and to see them finally begin to come to grips with the task has been very exciting. At the touch of a button I have been able to identify the areas of difficulty for each child and as a consequence focus my teaching to individual need.

Towards the end of Term 4 when our group of ten children had been using Lexia Reading SOS for about eight to nine weeks, I began to collect data from classroom teachers, parents and the children themselves to see if the programme was impacting on their reading. To date, the data is incomplete as not all the children were administered all the tests. However, the combined information lead me to the following conclusions: :

- all of the children showed improved reading levels
- standardized tests from one class showed improvements ranging from one month to seven months
- running records revealed marked improvements in decoding skills and increased fluency
- the children's attitude to reading had changed markedly for the better
- the children loved the programme and loved coming for their turn whatever the rest of their peers were doing (including playing games!)

In December I sent home a letter asking the parents of our trial group to write a few notes recording any changes they had noted in the reading behaviours of their children. Below are some of the responses I received.

"..... is reading more often, seems to be enjoying novels and sticks to the book till it's finished."

"Greater confidence in her reading ability. More independent and trying harder to overcome obstacles (tricky words). Enjoying reading/language more than she was. Great to see improvement."

"A great improvementWill this follow on to Intermediate next year?"

"I have seen a dramatic change in’s. reading. The biggest plus for me is his willingness to read daily – most days he needs no prompting. A year or so ago I felt he had no focus and was even a bit troublesome at home. I have a great young man on my hands and I have no doubt his reading and positive attitude go hand in hand. Yes ! Yes ! Yes !"

"Thank you for giving this opportunity. He has definitely gained confidence and is happy to read to himself in bed most nights. I think he has made a marked improvement in his reading."

"I have noticed an improvement in his reading and he is able to read more words."

"I have noticed finding it easier to work out chunks and seems more fluent, more willing to read, greater confidence. Hooray !"

"I feel the programme has been very effective. is now reading with much greater fluency and confidence. Is better at working out words, but at the same time not getting stuck as previously would struggle, and by the time he had worked it out, the whole text meaning and flow was lost – this is now largely a thing of the past."

By the end of Term One, 2005, I hope to have a more complete set of reading tests on all the children in the programme which I will be happy to share with you.

Yours sincerely,

Annabelle Armstrong