Information for Schools

Training a Reading Recovery & Early Literacy Support Teacher

TIER 3 – READING RECOVERY – TRAINING TO TEACH INDIVIDUALS

Teacher selection
Schools select experienced junior class teachers willing to commit to the year-long training course. Training in Reading Recovery builds on the skills, knowledge and experience teachers have already acquired during their careers.

Professional development sessions
The training year begins with an intensive series of professional development sessions over 2-3 weeks to introduce the administration and analysis of a range of early literacy assessment tasks.

Fortnightly professional development sessions throughout the year follow this. A highly valued component of these sessions is the observation of live lessons, where teachers-in-training teach for their peers behind a one-way screen. (Organising to transport a child to sessions for this purpose at least twice during the year is an expectation of each teacher).

Through observation and discussion of live lessons, teachers learn how to work with 6-year-old children not getting underway as expected with literacy learning after a year at school.

Daily teaching
From early in the training year, teachers teach four children daily, each for 30 minutes, learning on the job.

Outcomes of the training year
During their training, Reading Recovery teachers:

- develop their understanding of reading and writing processes
- become skilled at using a range of systematic observation techniques to assess and guide children’s Reading and writing progress
- become competent at using specific Reading Recovery teaching procedures
- learn how to design individual instruction that assists the child in producing effective strategies for working in reading and writing
- critically reflect on their work and that of their peers
- develop an understanding of how to adapt their growing expertise to working with children in groups
- participate in a school literacy team to guide and report on the implementation of Reading Recovery and Early Literacy Support in their school.
Supporting a teacher in training

Experience indicates that effective outcomes for the school, teacher-in-training, and children are sustainable if:

- school leaders attend information seminars
- the teacher works within a literacy team
- connections with family and whānau are continually strengthened
- there are high expectations for children’s attendance
- the cycle of training is repeated after 3 or 4 years, so other teachers have a chance to benefit.

TIER 2 – EARLY LITERACY SUPPORT – TEACHING A SMALL GROUP COLLABORATIVELY

In the year following training, teachers use their Tier 3 literacy teaching expertise to supplement their teaching of individual children. In Tier 2, Reading Recovery teachers collaborate with the Year One classroom teacher to teach daily a small group of children identified as not getting underway as expected after about two terms at school.

ONGOING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

After the year of training, teachers attend six professional development sessions. These sessions continue to be based on observation and discussion of live lessons and include discussion on implementing Reading Recovery & Early Literacy support in schools. Teachers attend sessions for as long as they are involved in Reading Recovery & Early Literacy Support.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION RESOURCING

The MoE provides significant funding for schools to train teachers in Reading Recovery and Early Literacy Support. In the year after training, the MoE commits to partially funding Reading Recovery & Early Literacy Support (Tiers 2 and 3), and schools are expected to match the MoE FTTEs from staffing.

Reading Recovery Tutors have the knowledge and expertise to support school decision-making around training a teacher and continuing with Reading Recovery and Early Literacy Support after the training year. In addition, they are responsible for advocating for appropriate funding on a school’s behalf.

APPLICATION FOR READING RECOVERY TEACHER TRAINING

If you want more information about training, please contact your regional Reading Recovery Tutor here.

Reading Recovery applications for training open around the end of September and usually close mid-November.

If you want to be notified that the Application process is live for 2024, please get in touch via email at natreadrecovery@auckland.ac.nz or submit a form on our contact page.