

Fantastic Resources to Help Children Learn to Read

By Caroline Bateman



Some children find learning to read and spell very difficult. These children can benefit enormously from help at home.

Teaching your own child to read isn't always an easy task. I have collated some resources to make it much, much easier.

GET EQUIPPED TO TEACH YOUR CHILD

Parents often receive well intentioned advice, such as, "don't worry, he/she's just a late developer". I would advise you **NOT** to wait!

The earlier you act, the better the chance your child has to keep up.

If you delay, your child could fall further behind. And then it's much harder to catch up.

Your child can only benefit from this support there's nothing to lose.

So please don't delay!



The earlier the intervention, the better chance of catching up & keeping up

Helping your child: Before you get started...

Just because you find reading easy, doesn't mean that you will find teaching your child to read straightforward.

The English language is extremely complicated. Teaching one's own child how to recognise the 26 letters of the alphabet is an over-simplification of what is needed. It won't be enough to overcome difficulties with reading.

Here you'll find my researched, tried and tested tools that will help you help your child:



- Making it work for your family
- FREE online resources to train parents
- Paper based intervention solutions
- Electronic intervention solutions

Even if you are totally knowledgeable on how to teach a child to read, when it's your own child, it can be more challenging.

Making it work for your family

I've covered paper and electronic interventions in this list because every family is different, and you'll work out what works for you.

For my family, whilst I found that the paper-based solutions were highly effective in teaching reading, it led to a lot of battles between me and my kids. I decided that family harmony and my sanity were more important.

This is not to diminish the effectiveness of these paper interventions, but to forewarn you, in case your children, like mine, refuse to comply. And it's why I started exploring tech solutions.

Ideas to help family harmony

Children often respond better to being taught by people outside the family. Unfortunately, finding a qualified tutor isn't always easy. In some areas, demand is greater than supply.

I paid local, trendy teenagers to come and 'help', knowing that my children would fight less and cooperate more with teens they looked up to.

Unexpected benefits of electronic solutions

I found that the solution on the device became 'the tutor' and I remained 'the mum' who helped them to do the work the programme set for them.

I have three dyslexic children who all needed my help at the same time. It was three against one a lot of the time which wasn't pleasant!

Electronic solutions, enabled me to work with my three children at the same time.

FREE Online Resources to Train Parents

There are a wide range of resources available from colourful posters to in depth webinars. You can select the level of support you need and you can choose the medium – in fact you can tailor it to suit you and your child.

1 Springboard – Life Changing Literacy

[A Parent's Little Guide to Helping Children Read](#) Ten quick tips that can make a big difference when teaching your child to read.

2 How Children Learn to Read – the Science of Reading by Sound

[Blog post by Marnie Ginsberg](#) This amazingly comprehensive blog contains a wealth of information, plus a number of how-to videos.

3 Helpful Video for Parents from Dyslexia Daily

[Learn How to READ and SPELL](#) A practical and helpful video when you're helping your child to learn to read.

4 Why Phonemic Awareness is So Critical to Teaching Students to Read

This is a FREE webinar provided by [Consortium on Reaching Excellence in Education - CORE](#). Dr David Kilpatrick explains why phonemic awareness is so critical to teaching students to read. You must register to watch it, but I have not received any unwanted emails as a result. You can access the [on-demand webinar by clicking here](#)



Paper Based Solutions

1 Word Wasps & Hornet Literacy Primer

WASP stands for **W**ord **A**rticulation **S**pelling and **P**ronunciation. The Word Wasp is a comprehensive programme beginning with basic letter sounds before progressing to more complex diphthongs and digraphs. It can be used with students from the age of **seven** to **adult**.

These are manuals for teaching literacy skills: both reading and spelling. They can be used by anyone.

They are proven to work and are an extremely cost-effective resource

For more information

This website contains a wealth of useful information including videos and example pages.



WORD WASP PAGE 65

Day Month			Day Month		Day Month	
PRO Both correct earn a tick		Rule breakers *	Spell	Rule breakers *	Spell	K before e or i *
rich	which *		rich *		matches	
such	much		which		patches	
attach	detach		such		larch	
ditch	pitch		much		batches	
patch	vetch		attach		catches	
hitch	notch		detach		march	
latch	match		pitch		fetches	
catch	Dutch		vetch		hatch	
larch	march		hitch		torches	
thatch	ketch		porch		patches	
parch	arches		arch		ketch *	
hutches	kitchen		patch		ketchup *	
porch	torches		latch		thatch	



This is a highly structured, multi-sensory reading manual for teachers and parents

Toe by Toe supports any child or adult who has difficulty in **decoding** (ie, reading unfamiliar words confidently and accurately) or reading fluently (ie, reading without pausing or hesitating when confronted by an unfamiliar word).

For more information

Their website has many helpful resources including a training PDF.

TOE BY TOE PAGE 202

Other Information

'tion, sion, cial, tial, cian'

Polyns are not appropriate for this exercise. The only prerequisite for reading real words is the ability to recognise word endings quickly.

Some students may struggle to perfect the pronunciation when they tackle column A but the real words will establish this very quickly.

Coach

Listen to the sounds made by the bold letters in the following words:

mention magician mission

The sound made by the bold letters is **sh'n** - rather like the word **shun** without the vowel. Once more listen to the sound of the bold letters:

social initial

This time the bold letters say **sh'l**; which is rather like the word **shall** without the vowel. Establish the sounds by repeating the words.

Ask the student to read the word endings listed in pairs in column A. When you are confident that s/he can read them quickly and correctly you may move to the next columns of real words.

If your student has difficulty with a word you can ask them to try both sounds of the vowel. Most difficulties will arise when the student reads a word such as 'lotion' and gives the first o its short sound.

Remember: In the word columns both words must be read correctly to earn a tick. Coached words receive a dot.

TOE BY TOE PAGE 203

A	Day		Month		Day		Month	
tion	tian	emotion	tactician		mansion	precision		
cial	tion	passion	magician		sanction	invasion		
cial	tial	tension	addition		action	potion		
sion	tion	invention	special		spatial	notion		
tial	cial	detention	politician		division	induction		
cial	sion	mention	initial		function	portion		
cial	tion	vision	incision		lotion	attention		
tial	tian	official	partial		partition	section		
sion	cial	traction	martial		potential	station		
tion	tial	fraction	caption		session	elation		
cial	tial	suction	option		revision	social		
sion	cial	nation	diction		petition	aversion		
cial	sion	question	decision		pollution	retention		
tion	tial	essential	facial		inclusion	mission		
cial	tion	pension	adoption					

Both these paper based programmes of study are ideal for those who are not trained specifically to help dyslexics or to teach reading, as they guide learners through a structured tailored programme.

Electronic Intervention Solutions

Technology is a great medium for creating engaging, entertaining and even addictive solutions to help children to learn. These are known as **intervention solutions**.

This link will explain [Why technology is an ideal medium for intervention solutions.](#)



[This video introduces technology to teach children to read.](#)

While my children benefitted from the services of dyslexia tutors, they tended to only see them once a week. I used intervention solutions to solidify what they had been taught throughout the week.

Dyslexic learners benefit from studying little and often/daily. An iPad or lightweight laptop can be carried around and used while on the go making the most of any downtime, as can paper based manuals.



What to Expect from Electronic Intervention Solutions?

Intervention solutions

- Start with an assessment that sets specific targets for the individual.
- Guide children through a personalised program of study that helps them overcome their specific areas of weakness.
- Are ideal for parents or those who are not trained to help dyslexics as they guide learners through a structured tailored programme
- Adapt to suit the needs of the individual child

If budgets are tight and you are not able to pay for a full intervention program, ask your child's school if they can provide a solution. School licenses can be used at home.

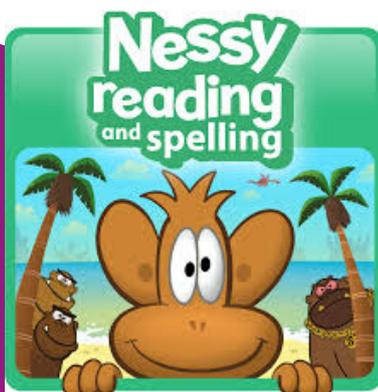
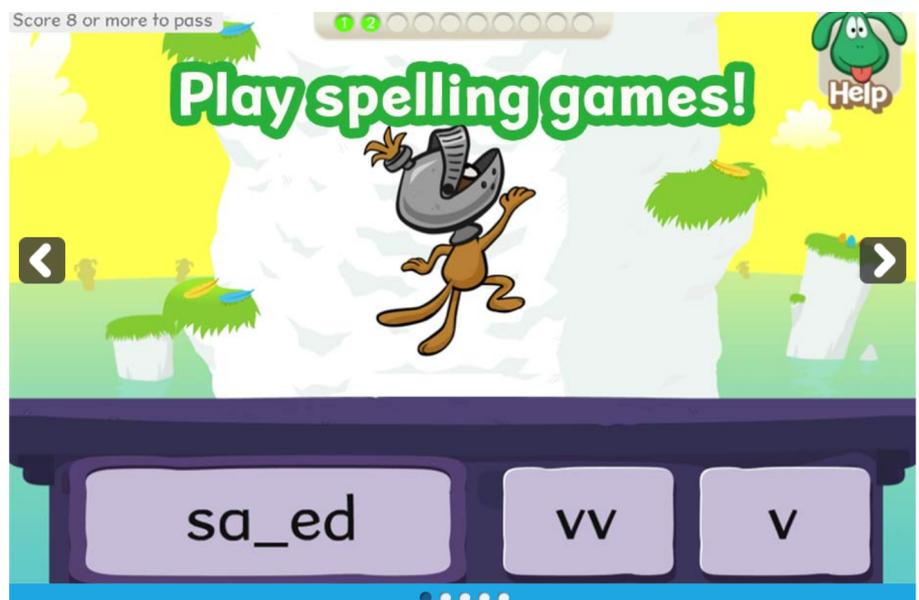
Full intervention solutions are NOT free, as they cost a lot to develop, but they do tend to be reasonably priced. This is an area where investing money in technology is worthwhile.

Reasonably Priced Electronic Intervention Solutions

This is not an exhaustive list, but these are solutions that I have seen help my students:

1 Nesy Reading and Spelling

Nesy Reading and Spelling is brilliant for reinforcing phonics. It makes the repetition required to embed phonics not only bearable, but fun! I totally agree with their strap line '**Learning happens when it's fun!**



For more information

[Learn more by watching this video](#)

[Click here to get a Nesy Reading & Spelling 7 day free trial](#)

If you go on to purchase Nesy, Achieve Now has this Discount code- **56par**.

Note: Nesy also produce lots fun worksheets which can be printed out.

If you want to work with your children on areas that improve their reading and spelling and that are not simply phonics-based, I'd recommend you check out Dyslexia Gold's products.

[For more information](#)

[Learn more by watching this video](#)

Two of the products have been shown to dramatically improve reading:

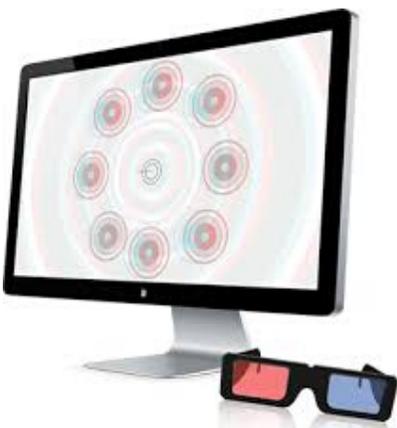
- Engaging Eyes (convergence & tracking)
- Fluency Builder (phonological awareness)

[Click here to access Dyslexia Gold offers a free trial](#)

It creates an account that can be used 5 times and then you need to subscribe if you want to keep playing. Utilise this free trial when you have time to test it out and work out which solutions will help your child.

To play the target practice game in Engaging Eyes, students need to wear 3D glasses. If you decide to purchase Engaging Eyes, Dyslexia Gold will send you a pair. To help you when using the trial, I have tracked down the cheapest version of 3D glasses I can find. These ones are £1.49, they are sourced from the UK

[Click here for more information.](#)

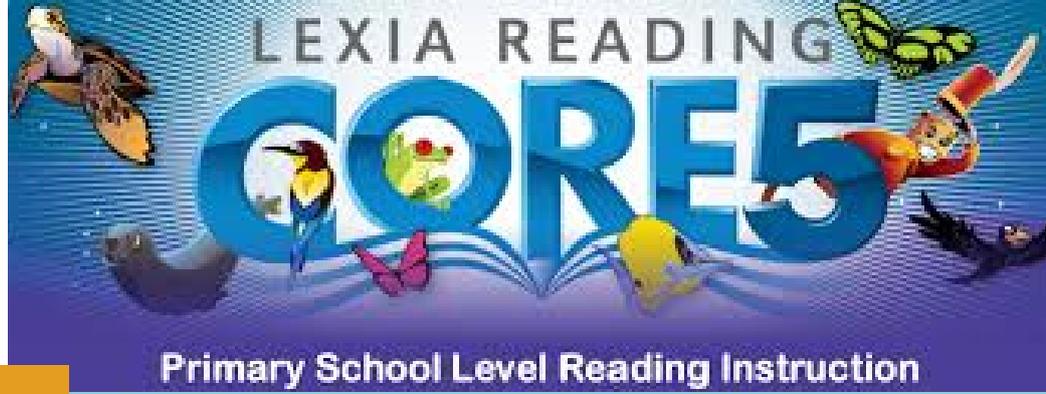


Dyslexia Gold have released a new product, Reading Unlocked. It's a complete learn to read program, for children who can't read at all. It starts with the alphabet and works up. If it sounds like something your child could benefit from, [you can access a free trial by clicking here.](#)

It wouldn't make sense to do Reading Unlocked and Fluency Builder but Reading Unlocked and Engaging Eyes would complement each other well.

[Learn more by watching this video](#)





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Lexia Core 5

Lexia's research-proven program provides explicit, systematic, personalized learning in six areas of reading instruction. These are: phonological awareness; phonics; structural analysis; automaticity / fluency; vocabulary; and comprehension.

For more information This website includes many helpful resources including a sample Lexia Core 5 lesson.

Learn more my watching this video



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IDL Literacy

International Dyslexia Learning Solutions provides specialist multi-sensory software programmes to primary and secondary schools

There are five different lesson types: spelling, sentence, story, comprehension and dictation.

Developed by Ascentis, an educational charity with a mission to enable learners to realise their full potential and achieve their lifelong aspirations.

[For more information](#)

[Learn more by watching this video](#)



Spelling	Comprehension	Story	Sentence	Dictation
Lesson D 1 ★★★★★	Lesson D 1 ★★★★★	Lesson D 1 ★★★★	Lesson D 1 ★★★★★	Lesson D 1 —



Fewer stars may not necessarily indicate that your pupil is struggling. There are many reasons for mistakes when typing.

It is ONLY there to indicate that closer supervision may be required in future.

This lesson has not been taken yet.

- 5 stars - no mistakes
- 4 stars - 2 mistakes
- 3 stars - 4 mistakes
- 2 stars - 6 mistakes
- 1 star - 8 or more mistakes

6

Units of Sound

This online literacy tool offering lessons within four key areas:

- Reading
- Spelling
- Memory
- Dictation

It is highly advanced as it not only teaches, it listens to the student and is able to 'correct' them.

It isn't cartoon based, so it does not hold the attention of younger children well, but in my opinion, it is a great solution to help older children and adults.

[For more information](#)

[Learn more my watching this video](#)



How can you decide which is the best solution for your child?

It's good to start by helping overcome specific weaknesses. Formal assessments detail strengths and weaknesses. If your child has not had a formal assessment, it might be worth doing an online screen to identify where help is required.

A child's individual preferences also need to be taken into consideration, as you want them to progress daily, which is why free trials are helpful.

My children used several different solutions, as their needs changed over time.

Good Luck

I hope you have found these resources helpful. My intention is that you will benefit from my experience so you can spend your precious time supporting your child(ren) rather than repeating research I've already done.