

Template to Send to Libraries: *Originally Written by Jennifer Ose-MacDonald, edited by Teach My Kid to Read*

Greetings:

I wanted to reach out and bring to your attention, if not already there, the existence of a genre of books called "decodable readers." Decodable readers are books designed to support children's literacy development who are learning to read using a structured, science-based approach. Most schools in New York State attempt to teach literacy following a Balanced Literacy approach. Structured Literacy is a different approach that teaches children to truly decode words by building their understanding of phonics, syllabication, morphology, and beyond. I can expand further if necessary, but perhaps you are already familiar with literacy, being librarians!

My inquiry to you today is to ask that you consider expanding your catalog to intentionally include decodable readers. Decodable readers help all children learn to read, and for children with reading issues like dyslexia, they are critical resources. In addition, there is very much a science behind how humans learn to read, and the publishers of decodable readers write their books in a consistent way supporting the science of reading.

Unfortunately, most schools do not carry the most common decodable readers, and several public libraries are unaware that the books exist. Decodable readers can be instructional in design for use in classrooms, but they can also provide practice at a specific skill level to support the pure joy of reading. Supporting reading instruction and providing children with books they can honestly read is the area that makes a lot of sense for a library to implement. A problem for many children with reading issues like dyslexia is that they can't access intellectually stimulating content compatible with their skill sets. They can access content designed to instruct but can't find engaging content that provides practice and promotes the pleasure of reading.

There is a New York based non-profit, [Teach My Kid to Read](#), whose mission is to assist public libraries in building decodable reader collections. Their program is called [The Road to Decode](#). Public libraries throughout the country have all partnered with the Road to Decode to enhance their stacks. I'd ask that you please investigate working with this group to do similarly, to ascertain if it makes sense and is feasible.

The research shows that on the low end, 5% of our world is dyslexic, but on the high end, it's 20%. Dyslexia is not intellectually based; it is neurological. A person with dyslexia can learn to read if taught in the appropriate manner. The role of our public libraries in this process is critical; you can provide the "fun" content that will inspire them to read. The fun is what will keep our dyslexic readers on their path to become fluent readers. They have a long road to travel, but they can get there... Albert Einstein, Steven Spielberg, Bill Gates, Oprah Winfrey, Agatha Christie, F Scott Fitzgerald, and Jules Verne were all dyslexic and all very accomplished.

Thank you for considering this request, and please let me know if there is more I can do to help you explore this suggestion.