

**Literacy Hubs and Decodable Books: Building the Foundation for Literacy**



## What Are Literacy Hubs?

Literacy hubs are curated collections of decodable books and supporting literacy resources, designed to follow a systematic scope and sequence. These hubs empower children to master foundational reading skills, enabling them to develop as confident and proficient readers.

## What Are Decodable Books?

Decodable books are vital tools in a structured, explicit approach to teaching reading. They allow children to practice decoding through texts that predominantly include words they have been explicitly taught to sound out. These books follow a carefully designed progression, starting with simple letter-sound correspondences and gradually introducing more complex patterns. High-quality decodable books limit the use of irregular or advanced words in the early stages, ensuring that children rely on their decoding skills rather than guesswork or contextual cues.

## The Importance of Decodable Books

### Evidence-Based Practice:

Research confirms that a phonics-based approach to reading is the most effective method for all children to learn to read. Decodable books provide essential practice opportunities for these skills.

### Building Fluency and Confidence:

Decodable books allow children to cumulatively build their phonics knowledge, enhancing their fluency, confidence, and ability to transition into skilled readers.

### Critical for Children with Dyslexia:

For children with dyslexia, a structured, phonics-based approach is not optional - it is essential. Decodable books meet their unique needs while also benefiting all learners, regardless of any diagnosed learning difference.

### Foundation for Comprehension:

Decoding is a prerequisite for reading comprehension. If children cannot decode words, they cannot understand what they read. Decodable texts ensure children master the foundational skill of decoding.

### Equity in Literacy Education:

As an issue of inclusion, all children deserve access to high-quality resources like decodable books, which provide an equitable foundation for learning to read.

#### Filling Gaps in Existing Programs:

Many school reading programs undervalue decodable texts, leaving children without sufficient opportunities to independently practice decoding. This gap hinders their ability to develop the skills necessary for fluent reading.

#### Moving Beyond Memorization:

Memorizing sight words is not equivalent to learning to read. Decodable books teach children how to decode words systematically, which is especially critical for those with learning differences.

#### Empowering Lifelong Readers:

By mastering decoding, children gain the tools to read any text with confidence, paving the way for academic success and a lifelong love of reading.

#### Investing in Literacy Hubs: A Path to Educational Equity:

Supporting the creation and dissemination of Literacy Hubs ensures that every child, regardless of ability or background, has access to the tools and resources necessary to succeed in reading. Decodable books play a critical role in this mission, equipping children with the foundational skills they need to unlock the world of literacy.