



# LITERACY @ TE AO MĀRAMA

Te Ao Mārama teachers are on a big journey, and we are taking you along with us!

You may have recently heard the term **Structured Literacy**; there is a lot of chatter around this approach online, in schools and even in the media. We are learning a lot about how ALL brains learn to read and spell, and adding this approach to the already amazing literacy teaching that happens in our spaces.



## What is **STRUCTURED LITERACY?**

Structured Literacy is explicit, systematic teaching that focuses on;

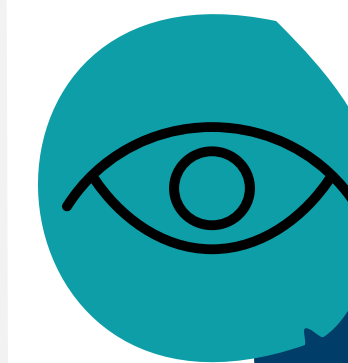
- phonological awareness; understanding the parts of words in oral language (eg; syllables, onset and rime)
- phonemic awareness; the ability to focus on and manipulate individual sounds of words
- phonics; recognising that letters are how we record sounds
- word recognition



## Why it's **IMPORTANT?**

As children's brains are growing and developing it is important that we assist this development to ensure strong foundations. In order to be effective readers and writers, children must have strong foundations in phonological awareness as they are the building blocks to accessing print. These building blocks are taught in a specific sequence to set them up for success as they become fluent readers.

Our aim is to support them into learning at their own pace by meeting them where they are at, and building on the skills and knowledge they already have.



## What to **EXPECT...**

Our classrooms are already rich in literacy experiences, which won't change. This includes oral language, poetry, songs, shared reading, reading to children, and explicit group teaching. We recognise the importance of oral language and reading comprehension; understanding the meaning of spoken or written words.

What might look different to you, is the types of texts, or books, and activities that may start coming home. For example, you may no longer see many 'colour wheel' texts coming home.

**More  
information  
and model  
lessons**

We have created a site for parents to provide more information about what this looks like, including some example lessons in our spaces

<https://tinyurl.com/TAMLiteracy>