

InitialLit–Foundation

Fact sheet

whole-class initial instruction in literacy

What is InitialLit?

InitialLit is an evidence-based whole-class literacy program which will provide all children with the essential core knowledge and strong foundations to become successful readers and writers. InitialLit is a three-year program, covering the first three years of school (typically Foundation to Year 2). InitialLit–Foundation was released in 2017, InitialLit–1 in 2018 and InitialLit–2 in 2019.

InitialLit marks a departure from remedial literacy education for MultiLit, instead addressing initial instruction in the hope that by providing strong foundations in reading and writing from the outset, fewer children will fall behind and require more intensive intervention.

In the context of a Response to Intervention approach, InitialLit is a Tier 1 program, designed to be delivered to whole classes by classroom teachers.

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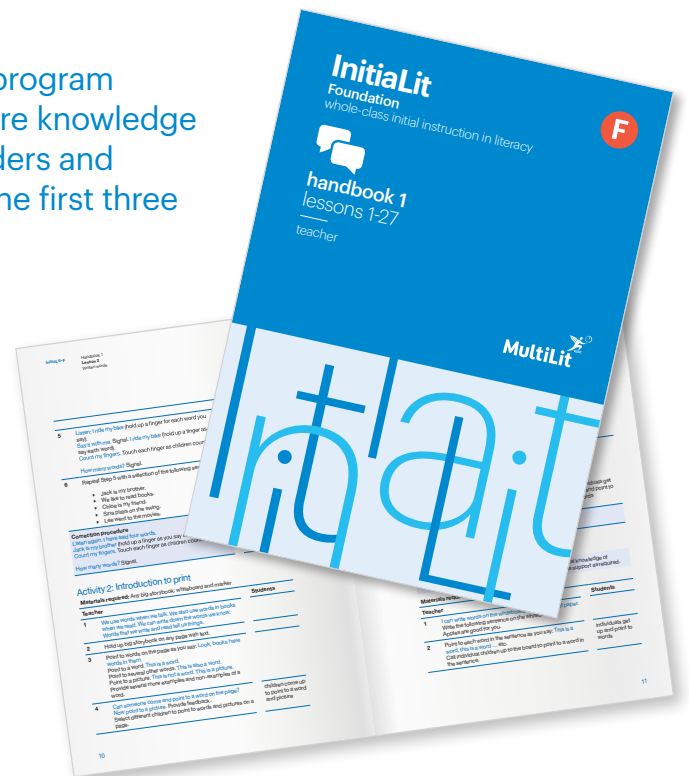
InitialLit–Foundation (InitialLit–F) offers an explicit and effective model for teaching reading and related skills to children in their first year of schooling in a fun and engaging way.

The program incorporates daily lessons in phonemic awareness, reading and spelling as well as rich language instruction using children’s literature. A set of decodable readers, InitialLit Readers (Levels 1-9), which are aligned to the instructional sequence, accompany the program enabling children to generalise and consolidate their skills.



Who is it for?

- ▶ All children in their first year of school
- ▶ Schools seeking a reading program that incorporates a synthetic approach to the teaching of phonics alongside a rich literature and vocabulary component
- ▶ Schools that would like to see thorough and consistent instruction across Foundation classrooms and a reduction in the number of children needing support in higher grades
- ▶ Teachers looking to provide an evidence-based approach to reading and spelling that is aligned with the Australian National Curriculum



The InitialLit–F approach

InitialLit–F incorporates the key components necessary for early reading instruction – phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. It is implemented across the four terms of the Foundation year.

The program is designed to be delivered in a 90-minute instruction block (ideally uninterrupted, but this can be broken up if timetabling requires). This will include:

- ▶ 20-25 minutes of whole-class teaching (ideally four times per week) using a detailed scripted lesson plan.
- ▶ 30-45 minutes of further literacy work (these are activities to consolidate the teaching, either completed independently or with a class aide/volunteer while the teacher works with groups on reading and word-building).
- ▶ 15-20 minutes for a Storybook session. This literature component provides opportunities to develop oral language, vocabulary and comprehension, with one storybook used as a focus over four sessions.
- ▶ Regular progress monitoring using curriculum-based assessments (CBA) to identify needs of children.



Program content and resources

The InitialLit–F Kit includes:

- ▶ Teacher Manual
- ▶ Nine Handbooks with 126 detailed lessons and session procedures
- ▶ Storybook Lessons Manual, with lessons to accompany 25 popular children’s literature titles
- ▶ Sounds and Words Books (six copies, for small group sessions)
- ▶ Assessment Manual, outlining procedures for ongoing student assessment
- ▶ Flashcards, Picture Cards, Sound Prompt Cards, Tricky Word Cards
- ▶ Wall frieze and posters of InitialLit characters, used to introduce letters and sounds
- ▶ InitialLit Sounds and Letters posters (A3)
- ▶ PowerPoint slides to accompany lessons (downloadable from MultiLit website)
- ▶ Access to hundreds of downloadables, including:
 - ▶ Consolidation worksheets to accompany each lesson
 - ▶ Handwriting worksheets
 - ▶ Literacy games
 - ▶ Activity templates
 - ▶ Letter Tiles/Cards for word-building activities
 - ▶ Home Reading Diaries (one per term)
 - ▶ Assessment Recording Forms
 - ▶ Resources to help schools implement the program e.g., parent information sheets, certificates, planning documents, curriculum linkage information

If you prefer to purchase ready-printed Handwriting Workbooks and Home Reading Diaries, these are available in class sets (25 copies per set) or packs of five. Home Reading Diaries are available in NSW font, while Handwriting Workbooks are available in NSW, Qld and Vic font.

Also required for the delivery of the program is a classroom set of InitialLit Readers (Levels 1-9). There are 60 Reader titles in this series, and a classroom set contains six copies of each title.

“ InitialLit has been an amazing program which has not only benefitted my students, but myself as a first year graduate. With a class of 30 students, the program has been instrumental in enabling me to provide lessons aimed at engaging and targeting all ability levels. My students love the characters and actions for each of the sounds taught, making them enjoyable and easy to learn!

Cody Keenan | Foundation teacher
Mercy School, Perth (InitialLit trial site)



Professional development

There is a compulsory two-day Professional Development Workshop that must be completed prior to implementation of the InitialLit program.

The workshop will cover:

- ▶ An introduction to InitialLit and why it was developed
- ▶ The pedagogical framework underpinning the program
- ▶ Implementation of InitialLit
- ▶ Delivery of lessons, including demonstrations
- ▶ How to run Storybook Lessons and Reading Groups
- ▶ Assessment and reporting

This training can be undertaken via a public workshop (as advertised on the MultiLit Professional Development Workshop calendar), or as an on-site workshop at your school. Please see our InitialLit program brochure for details of costs and the discounts available when you have multiple teachers trained.

From Term 4, 2019, the two-day workshop will cover all three years of InitialLit: Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 (prior to this, only Foundation and Year 1 are covered).

Schools interested in running an on-site workshop are encouraged to contact multilit@multilit.com, with requested dates, as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

Following the training, MultiLit will provide support for implementation of the InitialLit program by phone, webinar, email and our Facebook group, InitialLit Community.



Find out more

1300 559 919

multilit@multilit.com

www.multilit.com/programs/initiallit

