

# Early Reading Together® and Reading Together®

## - A Comparison -

### Early Reading Together® and Reading Together®:

- ❖ are workshop programmes developed by Jeanne Biddulph MNZM which have been successfully implemented in New Zealand since the early 1980s (see [www.readingtogether.net.nz/blog/history-of-reading-together-in-new-zealand.html](http://www.readingtogether.net.nz/blog/history-of-reading-together-in-new-zealand.html))
- ❖ focus on areas of learning (i.e. language and literacy) that all parents recognise as being important
- ❖ enable parents/whānau to learn specific and constructive ways of helping their children at home
- ❖ are practical, user friendly, enjoyable and manageable programmes for teachers, librarians, parents and children
- ❖ have positive effects on children's language, literacy and social development
- ❖ enable teachers, parents and librarians to work together to support children's learning more effectively than teachers, parents or librarians can accomplish on their own
- ❖ build more positive relationships between children, parents/whānau, teachers and community librarians
- ❖ help families to access support from librarians and to borrow books and other resources from libraries
- ❖ provide effective support for children and parents from diverse language/literacy, cultural, educational and socio-economic backgrounds
- ❖ have a sound theoretical and research basis
- ❖ are supported by the NZ Ministry of Education (see [nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/System-of-support-incl.-PLD/School-initiated-supports/Reading-Together](http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/System-of-support-incl.-PLD/School-initiated-supports/Reading-Together)) and are cited in OECD reports as successful parental-involvement programmes in New Zealand



### Early Reading Together®:

- ❖ helps parents/whānau to support the language and literacy learning of babies to 5 and 6 year olds (who are reading at emergent level) to:
  - understand more fully the ways in which talking with young children and reading to them (from the time they are babies) helps their language and literacy development
  - explore ways of supporting children's language and literacy learning when they are reading stories and rhymes, and singing songs together
  - find out more about books, rhymes and songs which are suitable for young children and enjoyable for them
- ❖ is implemented by experienced educators in ECE services, schools and community organisations, in collaboration with community librarians
- ❖ has been endorsed by Dr Sarah Alexander, Chief Advisor of the Office of Early Childhood Education ([oece.nz](http://oece.nz)), New Zealand's national body for early childhood education and care. The OECE provides information, research and advice on ECE quality, policy and childcare.



### Reading Together®:

- ❖ helps parents/whānau to support the language and literacy learning of 5 year olds (who are reading beyond emergent level) to 15 year olds
- ❖ has a particular focus on helping parents to support children's reading, especially when the child is reading to and with the parent
- ❖ supports the literacy learning of children who are:
  - struggling with reading
  - reluctant readers
  - competent readers
- ❖ has been scaled up across more than 900 schools by the NZ Ministry of Education (as detailed at [www.beehive.govt.nz/release/literacy-programme-benefit-more-communities](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/literacy-programme-benefit-more-communities))
- ❖ is "more than a programme, it is a lifelong gift that keeps on giving", says Vicki Hiini, Deputy Principal at Fairhaven School, Te Puke.

