

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)
- ❖ 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) 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), 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)
- ❖ is "more than a programme, it is a lifelong gift that keeps on giving", says Vicki Hiini, Deputy Principal at Fairhaven School, Te Puke.

