

## MiniLit: Parent Information

### What is MiniLit?

MiniLit is a special teaching program designed for young children in Years 1 and 2 who are struggling to learn to read. The program is usually offered in small groups of up to four children to help them to catch up with their classmates.

### Why has my child been selected to do MiniLit?

Your school will be able to give you more specific information about why your child has been chosen to receive MiniLit instruction but basically it is because your child is not making as much progress as the other children in his or her class and is falling behind. The aim of MiniLit is to help young struggling readers to catch up quickly.

### What is involved in the MiniLit program?

Teachers work with small groups for up to an hour a day for four days a week using the carefully structured MiniLit program materials. The program takes about two terms to complete. Each lesson has three main components:

- Sounds and Words Activities – where children learn to pay attention to the different sounds in words and to associate them with the letters of the alphabet
- Text Reading – which gives children the chance to practise their new skills
- Story Book Reading – which involves the teacher reading and discussing a story book with the students, to help improve their vocabulary and comprehension.

### How effective is MiniLit?

Research completed over the last five years has shown consistently that students make remarkable gains following MiniLit instruction. For children who are struggling to learn to read, intervening early is the best way to stop reading problems from becoming more established, and to bring students up to the level of their classmates before they fall too far behind.

### Can I do MiniLit at home with my child?

MiniLit is only available for use in schools by specially trained teachers and classroom assistants. But you can support your child by reading with him or her for up to half an hour every day. Our 'Reading with your young child' factsheet provides some tips on how to make these sessions effective and enjoyable.