

InitialLit–Foundation

Fact sheet

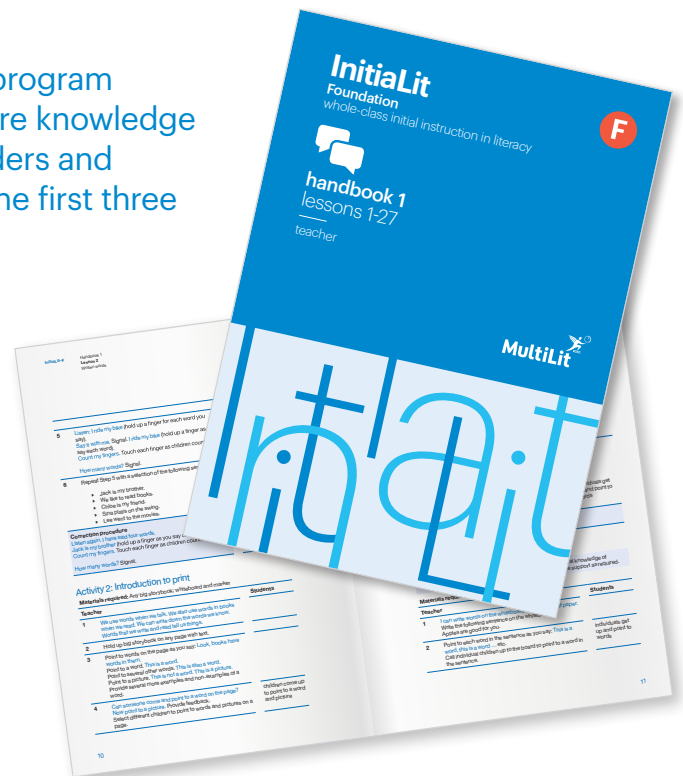
whole-class initial instruction in literacy

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.



What is InitialLit–Foundation?

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

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www.multilit.com/programs/initiallit



InitialLit-1

Fact sheet

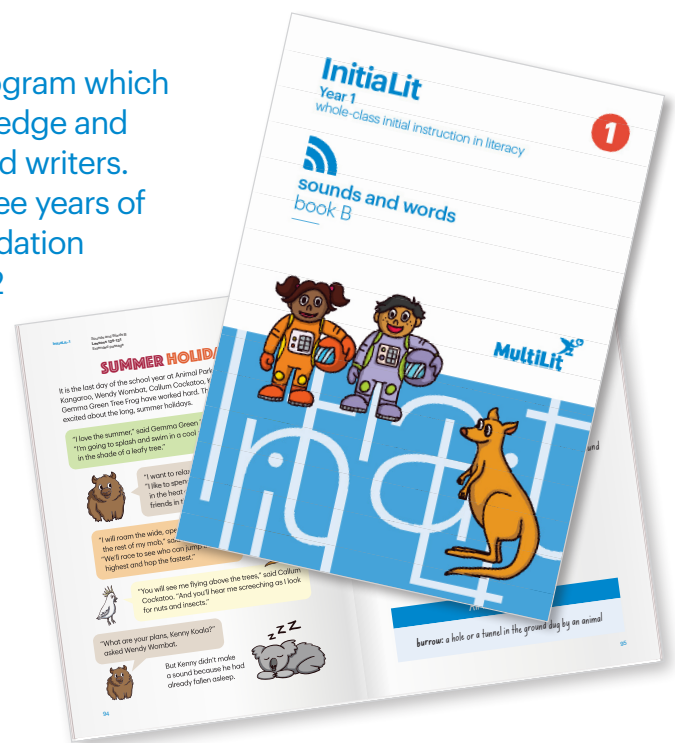
whole-class initial instruction in literacy

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.

MultiLit has broadened its scope beyond purely providing remedial reading interventions. InitialLit addresses initial literacy 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 framework, InitialLit is a Tier 1 program, designed to be delivered to whole classes by classroom teachers.



What is InitialLit-1?

InitialLit-1 continues on from InitialLit-Foundation in providing an explicit and effective model for teaching reading, spelling and related skills to children in their second year of schooling.

The program incorporates daily lessons in reading and spelling, as well as rich language instruction using children's literature. As with InitialLit-Foundation, a set of decodable InitialLit Readers (Levels 10-16), have been developed to align with the InitialLit-1 instructional sequence. These readers, used alongside the program, will help students generalise and consolidate their skills.



Who is it for?

- ▶ Children in their second year of school (Year 1)
- ▶ 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 Year 1 classrooms and a reduction in the number of children needing intervention in later years
- ▶ Teachers seeking to provide an evidence-based approach to reading and spelling that is aligned with the Australian National Curriculum.

The InitialLit-1 approach

InitialLit-1 has two main components. The first component is the phonic component. This component systematically and explicitly teaches the advanced alphabetic code in a set sequence. In addition to learning letter-sound correspondences and how these are applied to reading and spelling, children will be introduced to common morphemes and simple grammatical concepts.

The second component focuses on vocabulary, oral language and comprehension through children's literature. Detailed lessons are provided for each of the 25 storybook titles selected for use with the program, including a writing task.

The literacy session will include the following:

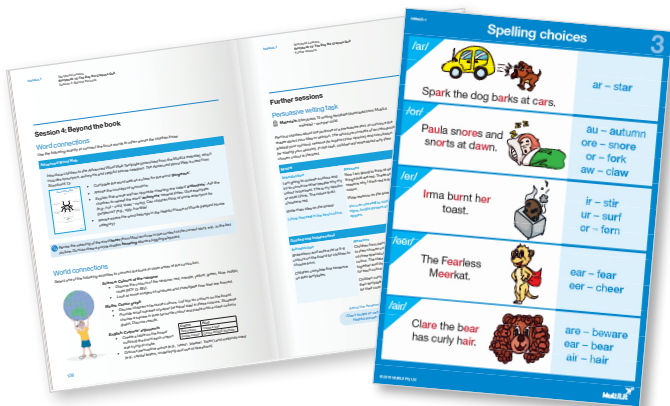
- ▶ 25 minutes of whole-class teaching using a detailed scripted lesson plan
- ▶ 10 minutes of spelling as the lesson directs
- ▶ 30-40 minutes of small group and independent work (using targeted and differentiated activities to consolidate the teaching that has taken place during the whole-class lesson)
- ▶ 15-20 minutes for a Storybook session. One storybook is used as a focus for four sessions, over a two-week period.
- ▶ Ongoing progress monitoring using curriculum-based assessments (CBA) to identify and respond to the needs of children.



Program content and resources

The InitialLit-1 Kit includes:

- ▶ Teacher Manual
- ▶ Eight Handbooks with 131 detailed lessons and session procedures with PowerPoints
- ▶ Storybook Lessons book, with lessons to accompany 25 popular children's storybooks
- ▶ Sounds and Words Books A and B (six copies of each, for small group sessions)
- ▶ Assessment Manual, outlining procedures for ongoing student assessment
- ▶ Card sets
- ▶ Colourful posters for display in the classroom
- ▶ Access to quality downloadable resources, including:
 - ▶ Consolidation worksheets and handwriting worksheets to accompany each lesson (available in NSW, SA, Qld and Vic font)
 - ▶ Literacy games to reinforce tricky words
 - ▶ Home Reading Diaries (one per term)
 - ▶ Writing and craft templates to accompany the storybook lessons
 - ▶ Additional items such as parent information sheets, certificates, planning documents and curriculum information



Consumables accompanying the program

There are several sets of consumables that can also be purchased for use alongside the InitialLit-1 program.

These include:

- ▶ InitialLit-1 Activity Book: available in packs of five, these books provide students with reading and spelling practice to consolidate the content taught in the whole-class lesson. They can also be used as a homework resource.
- ▶ InitialLit-1 Home Reading Diaries. Also available as a downloadable from the MultiLit Members' Area.
- ▶ InitialLit Readers More to Explore workbooks: this optional resource accompanies InitialLit Readers, Levels 10-16, to provide more in-depth comprehension activities.



Professional development

There is a compulsory two-day Professional Development Workshop that must be completed prior to implementation of the InitialLit program to ensure that schools gain maximum benefit from the program.

The workshop will cover:

- ▶ The theoretical framework on which InitialLit is based
- ▶ Detailed overview of the program content
- ▶ Implementation and assessment procedures
- ▶ Practical demonstrations of the lessons and opportunities to practise lesson delivery

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 multiple teachers attend training.

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

Following the training, MultiLit will provide support for implementation of the InitialLit-1 program by phone, webinar, email and our Facebook group, InitialLit Community.

Please note: 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).



Find out more

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InitialLit-2

Fact sheet

whole-class initial instruction in literacy

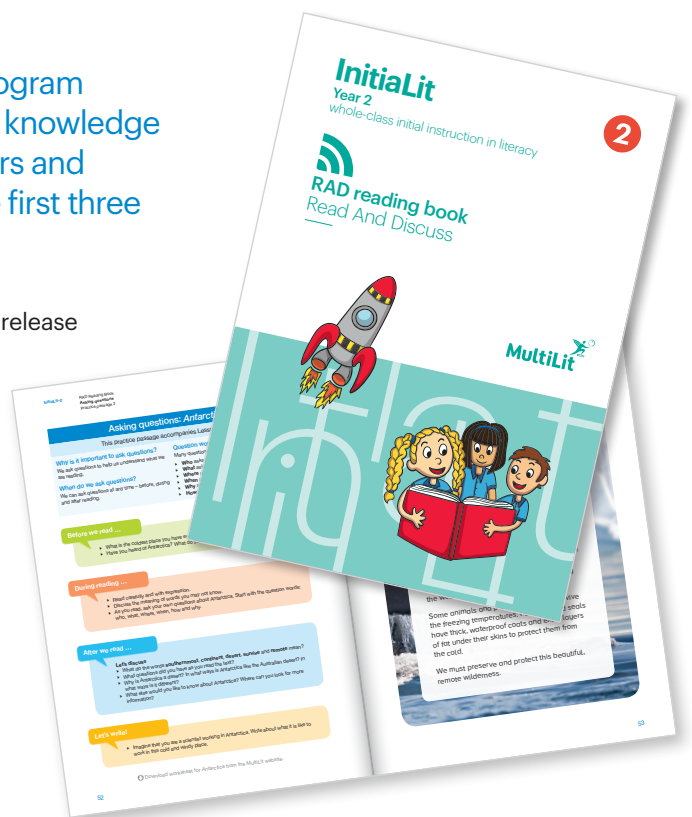
What is InitialLit?

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 the release of InitialLit-2 in 2019 completes the program.

MultiLit has broadened its scope beyond purely providing remedial reading interventions. InitialLit addresses initial literacy 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 framework, InitialLit is a Tier 1 program, designed to be delivered to whole classes by classroom teachers.



What is InitialLit-2?

By Year 2, most children will be well on their way to reading independence. The program builds on the skills taught in InitialLit-F and InitialLit-1, with the focus shifting now to consolidating children's reading and spelling skills, working specifically on reading comprehension, fluency, spelling and vocabulary.



Who is it for?

- ▶ Children in their third year of school (Year 2)
- ▶ Schools seeking a reading and spelling 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 all Year 2 classrooms and a reduction in the number of children needing literacy 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-2 approach

InitialLit-2 has four main components:

1. **Spelling.** This component reviews phoneme-grapheme correspondences and spelling concepts taught in InitialLit-1 and teaches the remainder of the advanced alphabetic code systematically and explicitly. Children will also learn new spelling rules and morphological concepts.
2. **Reading comprehension and fluency.** In this component, children will be taught comprehension strategies explicitly and how to apply them to different types of text. They will also be given regular opportunities to work on reading fluency through echo, choral and paired reading.
3. **Grammar.** Children will be explicitly taught key grammatical features and how to apply them to a writing task.
4. **Vocabulary, oral language and comprehension through children's literature.** Detailed lessons are provided for each of the 15 storybook titles selected for use with the program, including detailed writing tasks. Two novel studies are included for use towards the end of the year.



Program structure

- ▶ Two comprehension and fluency lessons per week [approx. 40 minutes each]
- ▶ Three spelling lessons per week [approx. 20-30 minutes each]
- ▶ Two storybook lessons per week [approx. 30 minutes each]
- ▶ Grammar lessons to be used flexibly during writing lessons
- ▶ Time for reading groups using RAD (Read and Discuss) Reading Books and any other appropriate reading material, and independent work using a variety of resources
- ▶ Ongoing curriculum-based assessments

The InitialLit-2 Kit includes:

- ▶ Teacher Manual
- ▶ Comprehension and Fluency Handbooks
- ▶ Spelling Handbooks
- ▶ Storybook Lesson Handbook
- ▶ Growing Grammar Handbooks
- ▶ Assessment Manual
- ▶ A class set of RAD (Read and Discuss) Reading Books, to accompany the Comprehension and Fluency component
- ▶ A class set of 25 Spelling Workbooks (available for purchase as a consumable after the first year, and as a downloadable)
- ▶ Spelling and concept posters to display in the classroom
- ▶ PowerPoint slides to accompany lessons (downloadable from MultiLit website)
- ▶ Access to hundreds of downloadables, including:
 - Consolidation worksheets to accompany spelling program
 - Comprehension activities to accompany text in the RAD Reading Book
 - Literacy games e.g., bingo for tricky words
 - Storybook writing templates
 - Home Reading Diaries (one per term)
 - Assessment Recording Forms
 - Resources to help schools implement the program e.g., parent information sheets, certificates, curriculum linkage information



Consumables accompanying the program

There are several sets of consumables that can also be purchased for use alongside the InitialLit-2 program.

These include:

- ▶ InitialLit-2 Spelling Workbooks: available in packs of five. A class set of these workbooks (25 copies) is included in the Kit when purchased. (Also available as a downloadable from the MultiLit Members' Area.)
- ▶ InitialLit-2 Home Reading Diaries (one per term per student). Available for purchase in packs of five, and as a downloadable from the MultiLit Members' Area.



Professional development

There is a compulsory two-day Professional Development Workshop that must be completed prior to implementation of InitialLit-2, to ensure schools gain maximum benefit from the program.

The workshop covers:

- ▶ The theoretical framework on which InitialLit is based
- ▶ Detailed overview of the program content
- ▶ Implementation and assessment procedures
- ▶ Practical demonstrations of the lessons and opportunities to practise lesson delivery

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 pricing table for details of costs and the discounts available when you have multiple teachers trained.

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 InitialLit, via phone, webinar, email and our Facebook group, InitialLit Community.

Please note: from November 2019, the InitialLit Professional Development Workshop will cover all three years of InitialLit–Foundation, InitialLit-1 and InitialLit-2. For teachers who have already undertaken the two-day InitialLit PD Workshop, and are now seeking to be trained in InitialLit-2, a bridging webinar series will be available at a price of \$200 per school, to provide an update on the new content contained in InitialLit-2. Staff who have not been trained in InitialLit are strongly encouraged to attend the two-day PD workshop as outlined above.



Find out more

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