

Catch up on your reading

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Dr Robyn Beaman and Prof Kevin Wheldall with the Multilit package.
Picture: BRENT MCGILVARY

HERE'S the good news. Most children learn to read without any help at all.

It is only 25 per cent of the "low-progress" readers who need help and intensive instruction, according to research psychologist Professor Kevin Wheldall. Prof Wheldall and his wife, Dr Robyn Beaman, founded the Multilit reading program at Macquarie University.

Multilit, which stands for Making Up Lost Time in Literacy, was recently selected by the education department to target low-progress readers.

Prof Wheldall and Dr Beaman want every child to read fluently and hope that one day their program isn't needed at all. "We want to make ourselves redundant," Prof Wheldall said.

Multilit is based on five big ideas for reading – sounds, letters, fluency, words and understanding. This forms the basis of the reading instruction.

"We start from what the children know," Dr Beaman said. "We tell the student what they are getting right and we shape their skills to be successful readers."

"The battle continues to rage about learning to read," Prof Wheldall said. "Phonics is not the answer. It is just one of the five big ideas and it is often not taught well in schools."

To find out more go to multilit.com or call 1300 559 919.

FIVE BIG READING IDEAS

1. Sounds
2. Letters
3. Fluency
4. Words
5. Understanding

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Australian Government

Did you know the Child Care Rebate now has more payment options?



The Child Care Rebate pays up to 50% of your out-of-pocket expenses up to an annual cap, per child per year in approved child care, or out of school hours care.

You may still be eligible for the Child Care Rebate even if you don't receive the Child Care Benefit.

From July, the Rebate could be paid fortnightly, quarterly or annually.

Fortnightly payments can be paid directly to your child care service as a fee reduction or to you.

If you use approved child care for work, study or training, you should check your eligibility.

If you currently receive the Child Care Rebate and would like to receive more regular payments for the Rebate for the next financial year, you should inform the Family Assistance Office by 17 June 2011.

For more information visit australia.gov.au/mychild or call the Family Assistance Office on **13 61 50**



Child Care Rebate
Helping families with the cost of child care

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