



## iCanRead - Case Study - Early Years

Mrs. Farrelly - Class teacher and Early Years Lead

### The challenge

In my opinion as an early years practitioner I feel that early reading is paramount to a child's success in education. The focus should primarily be on enjoying books in a child's pre school education, which may occur at home or within a pre school or nursery setting. Listening to different stories, rhymes and poems is a wonderful start to a child's reading career with a view of teaching reading strategies rapidly as the children enter Foundation Stage 2.

I also feel that having positive adult role model has a huge impact on children (especially boys) and to see individuals whom a child looks up to reading and more importantly enjoying books is so important in giving children an excellent start in reading.

Finally, parental support at home has an enormous impact on children's reading. Practise really does make perfect and with the full support of schools through reading and phonic workshops, this really can be a match made in heaven.

Research from the Education Endowment Fund confirms this.  
(<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/toolkit/early-years/>)

### The Outcomes

Weekly reading record log - 4 week trial period

W/S 14 SEPTEMBER 2015			
Name	Reading sessions	Pages Read	Medal
Ellie C	7	24	Platinum
Londra W	7	28	Platinum
Bailey L	7	20	Platinum
Stacey F	7	17	Platinum
Bethany W	7	18	Platinum
Rachel L	7	21	Platinum
Victoria G	7	21	Platinum
Reuban A	7	18	Platinum

W/S 7 SEPTEMBER 2015			
Name	Reading sessions	Pages Read	Medal
Ellie C	7	28	Platinum
Londra W	7	22	Platinum
Bailey L	7	21	Platinum
Stacey F	7	21	Platinum
Bethany W	7	21	Platinum
Rachel L	7	18	Platinum
Victoria G	7	22	Platinum
Reuban A	7	19	Platinum

W/S 31 AUGUST 2015			
Name	Reading sessions	Pages Read	Medal
Ellie C	7	24	Platinum
Londra W	7	18	Platinum
Bailey L	7	19	Platinum
Stacey F	7	19	Platinum
Bethany W	7	19	Platinum
Rachel L	7	23	Platinum
Victoria G	7	18	Platinum
Reuban A	7	22	Platinum

W/S 24 AUGUST 2015			
Name	Reading sessions	Pages Read	Medal
Ellie C	7	28	Platinum
Londra W	7	20	Platinum
Bailey L	7	18	Platinum
Stacey F	7	22	Platinum
Bethany W	7	19	Platinum
Rachel L	7	21	Platinum
Victoria G	7	16	Platinum
Reuban A	7	23	Platinum

The outcomes were two-fold as detailed below, the impact was noted first at home and then in class. What is interesting is the frequency this group of children read, dramatically increased.

These children were in a Reception class and not only did the record reading sessions every day, the amount they were reading significantly increased.

Parents and teachers not noted an increased willingness from the children to read.

This also helped the teachers legitimise the records as parents confirmed that their children were reading this amount daily.



## At home

The introduction of the iCanRead app has given parents a tool to engage even the most reluctant child to work at home. It affords itself to quick easy recaps of letters, sounds and sight words on the move which has been especially popular with busy, working parents but can also be used as a more in depth teaching tool for those children who work better using technology. Since parents have been using the app in Early Years, teachers have noted a significant increase in the amount of children reading with parents at home and using the app to support both additional reading and writing homework. We have noticed that the parents have been much more willing to take part in parent workshops within school as they feel empowered by having the knowledge of what to expect and what is expected of them as they support their children through the foundations of their learning.



## In class

The iCanRead app has had a huge impact in class on all the children for different reasons. The reluctant readers are often motivated to use the iPads which allows them to effortlessly engage in a learning activity without realising they are doing so. The app can be used in a small group, partner or individual basis. This helps to really target the children's learning and focus on a specific area of need.

iCanRead helps to scaffold quality first teaching by class teachers and support children in those early stages of reading such as decoding and blending.

The more able readers enjoy whizzing through their letter sounds and sight words and in many cases have moved onto new words which are above age appropriate levels. The app helps to increase the children's comprehension and inference skills which typically comes at a slightly later stage in a child's development.

This skill has definitely prepared these children well for Key Stage One and has, in many cases, afforded these children an exceeding level of reading.

The app works brilliantly in conjunction with the teaching of synthetic phonics and enables the children to work with a seamless transition from one system to another.

The children enjoy using the app and often choose to use it during their free time. It has helped to build confidence in all of the children and supports our 'have a go' theory in Early Years. We have noticed an increase in the quality of children's independent writing as their ability to segment independently has increased and their confidence to 'have a go' has certainly increased.

## Testimonies

I have really enjoyed using the iCanRead app with Ruby. Prior to downloading this app it has been notoriously difficult to engage her in completing her homework but as soon as she was able to use the iPad to learn her sounds and practise her key words she couldn't wait to sit down. She enjoyed the time we spent together playing games and the teachers and I have really noticed a positive affect on her reading and writing.

Parent



I like these games because I'm on green level books now and it's my special time to play with mummy

Ruby (child)



I know all my sounds now, even my digraphs and I get to use this at school and at home.

Finnbar (child)



Frankie loves playing with the iCanRead app on my phone or on his iPad. He is always looking to better his last score and this competitive streak has really fuelled him to strive to learn all his sounds and key words. He zoomed through them so quickly that he is now learning the words which are recommended for the year above.

Parent



"I enjoy using iCanRead because it's fun and I get to know all my sounds and I beat my old score everyday."

Frankie (child)



The children all love using the iCanRead app in class. They often ask to use it in their free time and during focused sessions they are engaged and motivated to learn how to read the key words and learn their phonic sounds. There has been a positive impact on all the children's writing with a marked improvement on the attainment of the boys as they love to use the iPads.

TA

