

Example interventions for word reading

May 2024

The Australian Education Research Organisation (AERO) recommends the use of a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) to better assist Years 7 to 9 students struggling with foundational literacy and numeracy skills. If you're unfamiliar with the MTSS framework, we recommend you start with AERO's [Introduction to a Multi-Tiered System of Supports](#) explainer.

This practice resource offers examples of programs that can be used to support the needs of students struggling with reading, and unpacks strengths and weaknesses of each. It forms part of a [series of guidance](#) created in partnership with the Dyslexia-SPELD Foundation (DSF). We recommend reading AERO's [Choosing, Monitoring and Modifying Reading Interventions in MTSS](#) practice guide before this practice resource.

Within an MTSS model, all students receive Tier 1 instruction in the curriculum, some students receive Tier 2 intervention to develop comprehension (typically within year-level curriculum contexts), and a few students receive Tier 3 intervention for word reading. There are many intervention programs available in Australia that save schools time in programming, planning and developing resources.

[Table 1](#) provides a list of intervention programs and resources that have been evaluated according to AERO's suggested [criteria for selecting a successful intervention program](#). All use explicit and direct instruction and are deemed suitable for a secondary context. This list is intended to provide examples of intervention programs that are suitable for secondary students in Australia. It's not exhaustive, and schools are encouraged to evaluate the resources and programs they use to [consider the evidence supporting the program](#), determine its suitability and decide whether they need any resources. Inclusion on this list doesn't indicate that these programs (or any associated additional intervention or assessment tools resources) are endorsed by AERO or DSF Literacy and Clinical Services.

Table 1: Detailed list of example interventions for word reading skills

Alignment with frameworks (SVR, CFF, EPRD, SRR, 4PPM)*	Cumulative, systematic sequence	Targeted skills	Opportunities for review/ practice	Format (F, O, I, G, C)**	Pace of instruction	Includes regular assessment	Time (frequency and length)	Cost (as at Sept 2023)	Training requirements	Pros and cons
<u>Barton Reading and Spelling System</u>										
SVR, CFF, EPRD, SRR, 4PPM	Yes	Phonemic awareness through to morphology and etymology	Yes	F, I, G	Increased Suitable for intervention	Yes	2 or more sessions a week 45–60 min	US\$300–400 for single tutor/ teacher US\$1200–1700 for school site licence	Minimal Online tutorials available	Pros Specifically designed as intervention Cons American English spelling and pronunciation

* SVR = Simple View of Reading, CFF = Cognitive Foundations Framework, EPRD = Ehri’s Phases of Reading Development, SRR = Scarborough Reading Rope, 4PPM = Four Part Processing Model

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Language! Live										
SVR, CFF, EPRD, SRR, 4PPM	Yes	Phonemic awareness through to morphology and etymology Comprehension of subject-relevant texts Written expression for secondary students	Yes	F, I, G	Increased Suitable for intervention	Yes	One or more sessions a week 45–90 min	US\$500 plus US\$100 per student	Teachers No training needed to deliver program	<p>Pros</p> <p>Specifically designed for adolescents</p> <p>Comprehensive scope encompassing reading and writing</p> <p>Cons</p> <p>American English spelling and pronunciation</p> <p>Alignment with US curriculum</p> <p>Access to resources and training may be difficult in Australia</p>

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MacqLit										
SVR, CFF, EPRD, SRR, 4PPM	Yes	Initial to extended phonics code Basic morphology	Yes	F, G	Increased Suitable for intervention	Yes	4 sessions a week 60 min	A\$1980 for initial training and resources	2-day training for teachers	<p>Pros</p> <p>Specifically designed as intervention for older readers</p> <p>Australian</p> <p>Cons</p> <p>Initial training costs are relatively high</p>
Morpheme Magic										
CFF, SRR	Yes	Anglo-Saxon, Latin and Greek morphemes – spelling and meaning	No	F, G, C	Explicit guidance not provided	No	At least 2 sessions a week 20–45 min	US\$90 for manual	None	<p>Pros</p> <p>Targets concepts often not covered in systematic phonics instruction</p> <p>Cons</p> <p>Relatively limited scope</p>

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Read Write Inc. Fresh Start										
SVR, CFF, EPRD, SRR, 4PPM	Yes	Initial to extended phonics code	Yes	F, I, G	Increased Suitable for intervention	Yes	Daily sessions 25 min	A\$715 for bundle	Teacher preferred No training specified but online tutorials available	<p>Pros</p> <p>Specifically designed as intervention for older readers</p> <p>UK spellings and pronunciations</p> <p>Cons</p> <p>Access to training and support may be limited in Australia</p>

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95 RAP (HiIRAP)										
SVR, CFF, EPRD, SRR, 4PPM	Yes	Phonemic awareness Initial and extended phonics code Vocabulary Comprehension	Yes	F, O, I, G	Increased Suitable for intervention	Yes	4–5 sessions a week 40 min	Unclear	Unclear	Pros Promising results from program evaluations Cons American English spelling and pronunciation Access to resources and training may be difficult in Australia
Reading Mastery Transformations										
SVR, CFF, EPRD, SRR, 4PPM	Yes	Initial and extended phonics code Vocabulary Comprehension	Yes	F, I, G	Increased Suitable for intervention	Yes	Daily sessions 30–45 min	Starting at A\$500 for resources	Teacher	Pros Promising results from program evaluations Cons Must be adapted for use as intervention

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<u>Reading Tutor Program</u>										
SVR, CFF, EPRD, SRR, 4PPM	Yes	Initial and extended phonics code	Yes	F, I	Increased Suitable for intervention	Yes	4–5 sessions a week 50 min	A\$480 for training	Teacher	<p>Pros Specifically designed as an intervention for older readers Australian</p> <p>Cons Relatively limited scope</p>
<u>Reinforced Reading</u>										
SRR	No (Dependent on teacher interpretation)	Dependent on teacher interpretation	Yes	F, I	Increased Suitable for intervention	No	Daily sessions 20 min	A\$36 per book	Teacher	<p>Pros Provides structured reading practice</p> <p>Cons Significant teacher input required</p>

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Rewards										
SVR, CFF, EPRD, SRR, 4PPM	Yes	Application of phonic code to multi-syllabic words, fluency, comprehension, and writing	Yes	F, I, G	Increased Suitable for intervention	Yes	At least 2 sessions a week 50–60 min	US\$150 a year plus US\$16 per student book	Teacher	<p>Pros</p> <p>Specifically designed as intervention for older students</p> <p>Covers multiple areas of literacy</p> <p>Cons</p> <p>American English spelling and pronunciation</p> <p>Alignment with US curriculum</p> <p>Access to resources and training may be difficult in Australia</p>

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Sounds-Write										
SVR, CFF, EPRD, SRR, 4PPM	Yes	Initial to extended phonics code Option to move into morphological instruction	No (Must be modified)	F, I, G, C	Must be modified by teacher to increase pace	Yes	At least one session a week 50–60 min (shorter if more frequent)	A\$1100 for training	Teacher preferred 4 days training in person or online	Pros Highly structured program with strong error correction processes Cons Initial training costs are high
SPELD-SA Intensive Literacy Program										
SVR, CFF, EPRD, SRR, 4PPM	Yes	Initial and extended phonics code Basic sentence grammar and punctuation	Yes	F, I, G	Increased Suitable for intervention	Yes	At least one session a week 30 min	Free	None	Pros Highly accessible Designed for older students Cons Relatively limited scope

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Spelling Mastery										
SVR, CFF, EPRD, SRR, 4PPM	Yes	Initial and extended phonics code through to morphology and etymology	Yes	F, I, G	Increased Suitable for intervention	Yes	Daily sessions 15–20 min	A\$350	Teachers Education Assistants	<p>Pros</p> <p>Comprehensive scope</p> <p>Highly structured program supporting instructional reliability</p> <p>Cons</p> <p>Designed as spelling program, but skills practice targets word reading as well</p>

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Spelling Through Morphographs										
CFF, EPRD, SRR	Yes	Anglo-Saxon, Latin and Greek morphemes – spelling and meaning	No (Must be modified)	F, I, G, C	Must be modified by teacher to increase pace	Yes	Daily sessions 15–20 min	A\$570 plus A\$36 per student	None	<p>Pros</p> <p>Targets concepts often not covered in systematic phonics instruction</p> <p>Cons</p> <p>Designed as spelling program, but skills practice targets word reading as well</p>

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<u>SRA Corrective Reading</u>										
SVR, CFF, EPRD, SRR, 4PPM	Yes	Initial to extended code Comprehension	Yes	F, G, C	Increased Suitable for intervention	Yes	Daily sessions 45 min	A\$570 plus A\$66 per student	Teachers Education Assistants	<p>Pros Highly structured program supporting instructional reliability</p> <p>Cons Support for comprehension may not transfer to other subjects</p>
<u>Toe by Toe/Stride Ahead/Stareway to Spelling</u>										
SVR, CFF, EPRD, SRR, 4PPM	Yes	Each book covers limited skill set and phonic knowledge	Yes	F, I	Increased Suitable for intervention	Yes	Daily sessions 20 min	A\$70 per book	None	<p>Pros Very accessible in terms of cost and delivery requirements</p> <p>Cons Relatively limited scope</p>

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Word Wasp										
SVR, CFF, EPRD, SRR, 4PPM	Yes	Each book covers limited skill set and phonic knowledge	Yes	F, I	Increased Suitable for intervention	Yes	Daily sessions 20 min	A\$59 per book	None	<p>Pros Very accessible in terms of cost and delivery requirements</p> <p>Cons Relatively limited scope</p>

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UFLI Foundations										
SVR, CFF, EPRD, SRR, 4PPM	Yes	Initial to extended phonics code Basic morphology	Yes (with modifications)	F, I, G, C	Must be modified by teacher to increase pace	Yes	At least one session a week 50–60 min (shorter if more frequent)	A\$121 per manual	Teacher preferred Non-compulsory F2F and online training Online tutorials	<p>Pros Lessons provided in full with all resources</p> <p>Cons American English spellings and pronunciations Must be adapted for use as intervention and with older students</p>

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Word Connections										
SVR, CFF, EPRD, SRR, 4PPM	Yes	Application of phonic code to multi-syllabic words and fluency	Yes	F, I, G	Increased Suitable for intervention	No	At least one session a week 40 min	Free	None	<p>Pros Very accessible in terms of cost and delivery requirements</p> <p>Cons Relatively limited scope</p>

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