

What are Decodable Readers?

Decodable readers are readers that have been written with strictly controlled vocabulary so that they only use decodable regular words in accordance with the week-by-week progression of letter sounds. Decodable readers can also use a small number of common exception words (or tricky words) and these are provided in the front of the reader so children can become familiar with them before reading the text.



Why should I use Decodable Readers with my students?

Decodable readers only select letter sounds within the text that are familiar to children (according to the progression). This empowers children to focus on decoding as they apply their explicitly taught phonics skills. Decodable readers will increase confidence in young readers as children can rely on their newly developing phonics skills to read an unfamiliar text.



How do Decodable Readers align to other reading programmes?

Decodable readers are most effective when children are first learning to read. Book banded (or levelled) programmes may confuse children if used adjacent to decodable readers as these levelled readers are not decodable. Nevertheless, decodable readers have been age-graded according to book bands, should they need to be used in conjunction with these programmes.



Do I need to work through the books in order?

Yes, as each book has been carefully written according to the letter sound and common exception word progressions. If you jump around books within the phase or across phases then children will not know all the letter sounds and will no longer have the phonics skills to decode the text. Note, there are revision readers at the end of each phase and these books can be read in any order once completing the letter sound phase, as that this stage all letter sounds in the text will be familiar.



Where can I find which Letter Sounds that are covered in each book?

The inside front cover provides the phase progression of letter sounds in grid format. Cells filled in black display letter sounds that are explicitly introduced in the decodable reader. Cells in black text have been previously taught. Cells after the black-filled cells will be explicitly introduced in future readers. Quick reference to the letter sounds explicitly taught are also provided on the cover, along with the book number in the series



What are Common Exception Words (tricky words)?

Common exception words (or tricky words) are words that are not fully decodable (such as the, said, come...). They are used sparingly in decodable readers as they are sometimes needed for comprehension. Common exception words (tricky words) are introduced according to their own progression which runs in parallel to the letter sound progression.



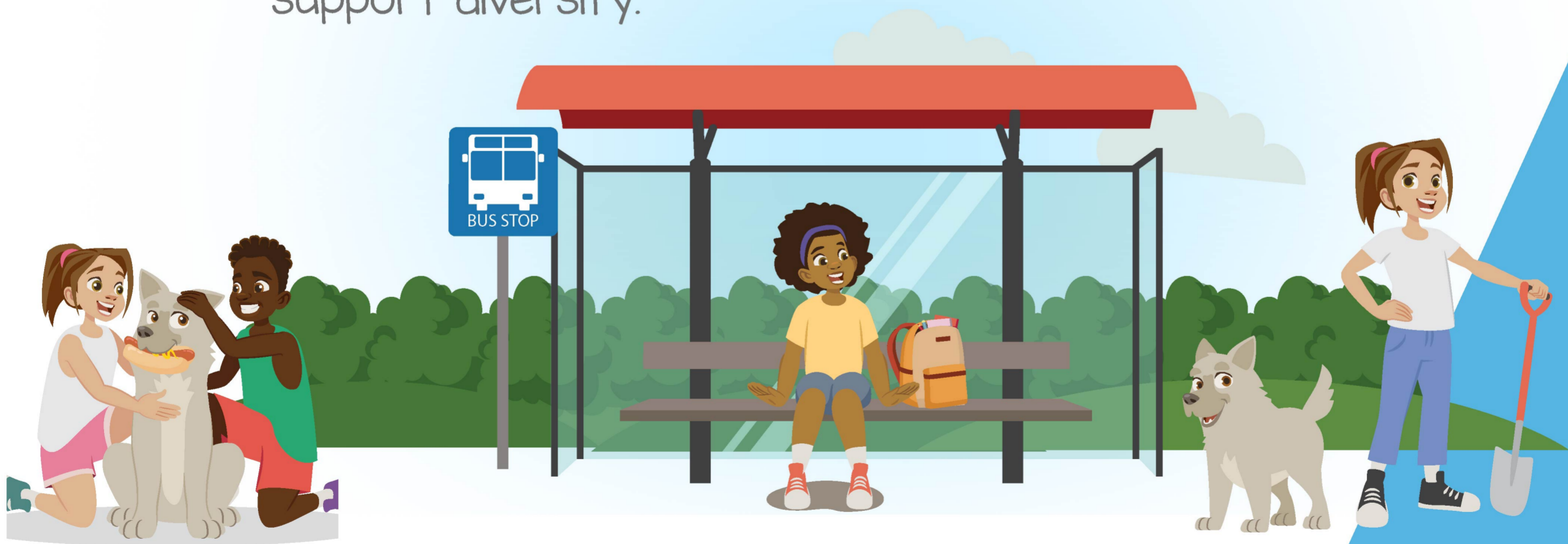
What are the Phases of Letters and Sounds?

There are six phases of Letters and Sounds. These are: phonemic awareness (Phase 1); letter sounds (phase 2); phonics (phase 3); adjacent consonants (phase 4); vowel sounds (Phase 5); sound families (phase 5.5) and spelling (phase 6). Within each phase there is a progression covering the letter sounds being taught, and at the end of each phase there is revision before moving on to the next phase. Phases are designed to cover the first three years of school and children will be fluent readers by the time they reach the end of phase 6.



What is unique about The Beanies set of Hi-Lo Decodable Readers?

The Beanies set of Hi-Lo decodable readers is unique in that it follows the week-by-week progression, but has been written and illustrated at an older interest level. While characters in the Beanies are young teens, the text in each reader is at an early reading level. These readers are excellent for older children who are struggling with their reading and need to work through the progression to build their decoding skills. The Beanies also include characters of different ethnicities to support diversity.



What is the difference between Junior Learning's set 1 and set 2 Decodable Readers?

Set 1 decodable readers were published first. Set 2 runs in parallel with Set 1 and expands the offering by adding more titles. Both Set 1 and Set 2 follow the same progression so can be used together in accordance with the progression. Both Sets also have fiction and non-fiction strands, again, each in line with the progression



What is the weekly progression?

The weekly progression includes the new letter sounds that have been introduced and taught explicitly during that specific week in accordance with the progression. Typically, a weekly progression will introduce four new letter sounds (Monday to Thursday) and concentrate on common exception words as well as revision (on Fridays). After letter sounds have been explicitly taught, decodable readers are used to apply newly forming letter sound skills in the context of reading.

