



THEORY TO PRACTICE

Kirsty Brown, Area Manager Disability Services
South East Queensland Area

A post school program for adults with an intellectual disability.

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Background to Endeavour Foundation

- ◆ Largest non-government organisation in Australia supporting and providing opportunities for people with a disability.
- ◆ Solely in Queensland support approx 3000 people - moving into NSW
- ◆ Commenced by a small group of mothers in 1951 in Brisbane, Queensland
- ◆ Regular school system would not take these children set up to educate these children- ran special schools

until 1980's
A post school course for adults with an intellectual disability.

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What is Latch-On® ?

- ◆ Two year post-school literacy program for young adults with intellectual disabilities
- ◆ Started at University of Queensland in 1998
- ◆ Research and teaching focus
- ◆ 2004 expanded into community through Endeavour Foundation – starting in Bundaberg and Townsville in 2008
- ◆ Research and key teacher training remain at University of Queensland

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What is Latch-On®?

- ◆ Latch-On® is a literacy and technology program for young adults with an intellectual disability.
- ◆ Latch-On® was developed in the School of Education at the University of Queensland and is licensed to Endeavour Foundation in Queensland.



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Latch-On® Classes



- ◆ Latch-On® is offered to classes of 6 students aged from 18 years.
- ◆ Each group attends for 2 days per week.
- ◆ Students graduate after 2 years.
- ◆ An optional extension program is available, where students attend for one day each week.

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Education and transition to adulthood

- Latch on aims:

- ◆ To provide opportunities for people with an intellectual disability to continue their literacy development.
- ◆ To enhance self-confidence and life opportunities.
- ◆ To support concepts of literacy as a desirable aspect of future life.



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Aims cont...

- ◆ To develop communication in oral and written mediums.
- ◆ To encourage friendships through social activities and shared learning.



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Special features of the program

- △ Small groups and individual tuition
- △ Access to computer technology
- △ Linking of computer-based learning with traditional literacy teaching
- △ Evaluation and monitoring of ongoing development
- △ Access to the community
- △ Health & fitness component

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Teaching & Assessment

- √ The program is run by a registered teacher with extensive knowledge and experience.



- √ Trained tutors assist the teacher

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Benefits for participants

- ✓ Increased independence and assertiveness
- ✓ Improved self-confidence and self-esteem
- ✓ Increased ability to participate independently in the community
- ✓ Establishment of friendship groups
- ✓ Growth in literacy skills
- ✓ Opportunity to use technology
- ✓ Participation in social activities



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- ◆ Costs include tuition, consumables & program materials
- ◆ \$AUD6,000 per student per year for first and second years.
- ◆ Two days per week
- ◆ \$AUD3,000 per student per year for extension program. One day per week

(Costs are subject to annual CPI increases).

Latch-On® is an approved activity for Dept of Communities- Disability Services Post School Services funding

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How it started



University of Queensland Research into strategies for teaching literacy

- *Developing oral language*
- *Investigating and enhancing reading comprehension*
- *Enhancing word-processing*

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Three literacy research projects

Latch-On[®]

- young adults aged 17-26

Lifestories (ANTA)

- young adults aged 18-23 and their support workers in community-based services

Adults

- Endeavour day service clients (aged 29-56)

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Study 1: Latch-On®

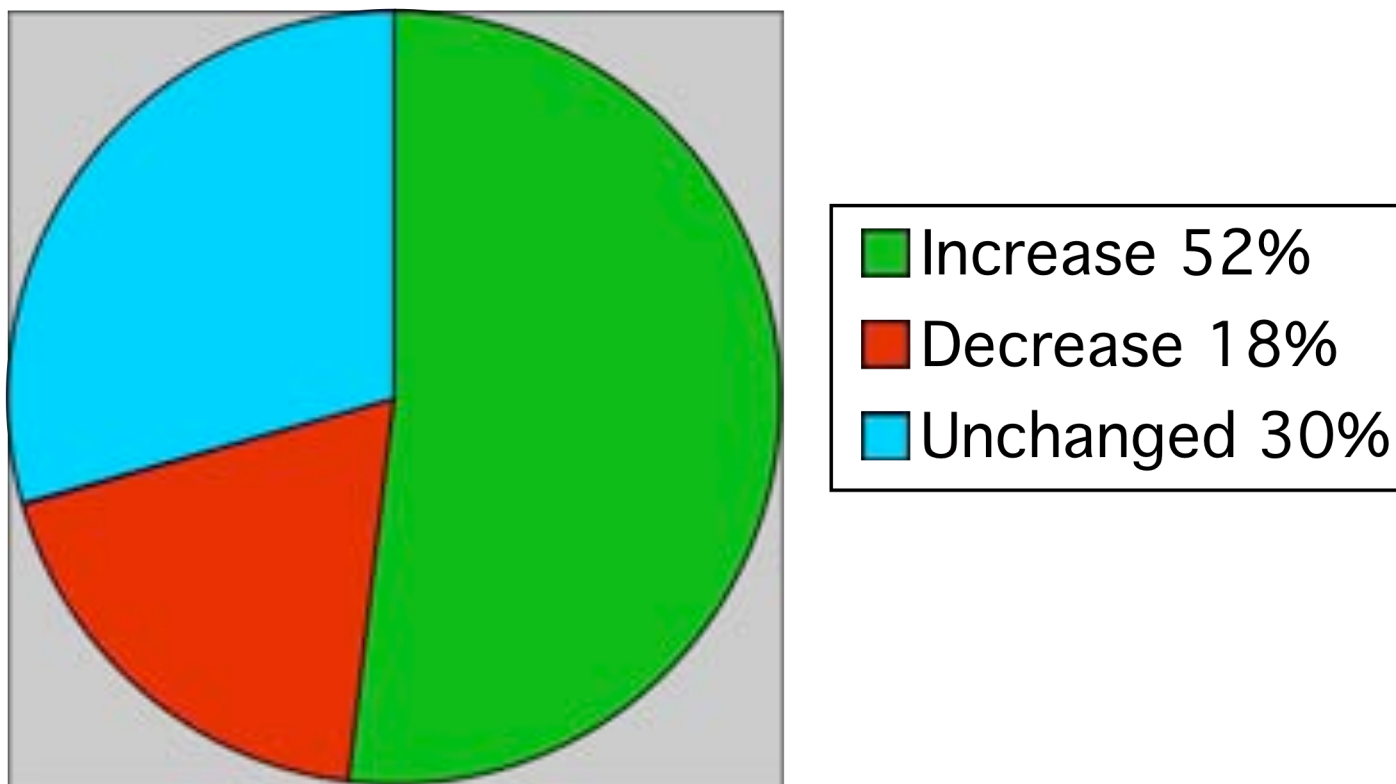
- △ Data from 8 years of research into reading at Latch-On
- △ Participants were 41 young adults (17-26 years) with PPVT-R scores ranging from 3 years to 13 years 5 months
- △ Results from 27 students on NARA-revised (11 students were unable to reach baseline and 3 incomplete assessments)

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Results for reading accuracy (n=27)



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Developing oral language: Hot Seat

- Oral communication activity
- Social
- Self-selected topics
- Short
- Voluntary



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Program highlights

2 modules per year:

Module 1 A: Starting a journey of self discovery

Module 1 B: Beyond self and into the community

Module 2 A: Reaching into the world

Module 2 B: Taking on the world

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MODULE 1: Starting a Journey of Self-Discovery

Family (1)

Activity: How people describe me

Literacy Focus:



Teaching skills and strategies	Activity Sequence	Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Talk about ourselves and what we and our family think about us• Use reading cycle• Use writing cycle• Support reading responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Talk about what we think of ourselves and what our family thinks about us• Read text and discuss• Read 1st page of scaffold• Complete 1st page of scaffold• Read responses• Read 2nd page of scaffold• Complete 2nd page of scaffold• Read responses• Talk about differences/similarities between how we see ourselves and how our family sees us	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scaffold• Text "Me" by M. Morgan

LINKING ACTIVITIES

Within the module	Across modules	Supplementary modules
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome to Latch-On (2)• Family (1) — Things you should know about my family• Family (2) — Writing about family members<ul style="list-style-type: none">- My family tree	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Module 2 — Likes/dislikes (1)• Module 4 — Dreams for the future (1)• Module 4 — Goal review	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poetry• Famous people• My life



Ruth meets Senator Sue Boyce ↑

Hollie's photography award →



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Benefits for participants and others

- ◆ On going partnership with University of Queensland
- ◆ Increased independence and assertiveness
- ◆ Growth in literacy skills
- ◆ Opportunity to use technology

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Benefits cont

- ◆ Improved self confidence and self esteem
- ◆ Increased ability to participate independently in the community
- ◆ Establishment of friendship groups
- ◆ Participation in social activities
- ◆ Increased readiness for employment

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Student Testimonials

"I like being with my friends and doing 'Hot Seat.'" ~ *Hollie*

"The teachers are the best. They help us write letters and use the computers."

~ *Betsy and Emma*



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Contacts

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QUESTIONS



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