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REPORT ONE ON LEXIA READING PROJECT

KAITAIA EASTCOAST CLUSTER

This cluster is made up of four schools.

**Oruaiti primary-98 students,
Mangonui school- 145 students,
Taipa Area school- 450 students and
Kaingaroa school- 147 students.**

**Out of the total number of students [840]
118 or 14% are exposed to the Lexia programme on a regular basis ie. At least three
times per week for 30 minutes. [please note this survey did not include gender info]**

Out of these 118 students who make up the core groups from each school:

**58 or 49% were one year or just over behind their chronological age in their reading at
the start of the intervention.**

**60 or 51% were two years or over behind in their chronological age in their reading at
the start of the intervention**

**56 or 47% had other global issues such as: behaviour, truancy, numeracy as well as
reading and spelling, writing difficulties, physical issues and giftedness utilizing the
programme for extension [4 students only]**

**So it can be seen from these initial figures the project in this cluster is large, as are the
issues for some students. Two schools are utilizing the programme purely within the
classroom setting. The other two including the larger Area school are withdrawing
students and using a teacher aide to administer the programme. Taipa have two
computer suites geared up for Lexia one in the Primary section and one in the learning
support room for Intermediate and Secondary students with timetabled helpers for each
period of the day. I am happy to report that after much initial time and energy put into
timetabling the programme is being utilized in all schools to its maximum potential.
Over- all the programme has been running in one school since beginning of term 4.
another since October, another since September and the last since half way through term
4. All schools have been surveyed for initial results for students and a global anecdotal
overview of impressions so far. The results have been encouraging:**



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All schools were asked to report on a set of changes that may have occurred in students since they have been using Lexia;

- Higher and more positive engagement in the Learning process.
- Progress starting with reading skills.
- Word attack skills increasing.
- Positive behavior changes.

They were also asked to make specific comments around these indicators as well as to interview two students and record their comments. Taipa Area school was surveyed in the three areas, Primary, Intermediate and Secondary [the secondary section has been using Lexia the least amount of time].

RESULTS

For the primary students of all schools and the intermediate sections of the three schools with year 7 and 8 students all schools reported progress with all of the above indicators. Some students in two schools have increased their reading age by up to one year in six weeks. In one school all primary students doing Lexia have shifted and are progressing rapidly through the Lexia levels as well. For a core group of 27 year 7 and 8 intermediate schools probe results at the last school assessment are showing significant shifts. The Secondary students who have significant issues after their shorter time on the programme are showing great leaps in responsibility and attitude towards the learning process and are checking their own timetables and engaging in other reading activities while waiting their turn.

SPECIFIC TEACHER AND TEACHER AIDE COMMENTS

The following are taken directly off the survey sheets: [Similar comments are not repeated]

- “Probe results are showing a shift after 6 weeks. Students seem to be building up a higher sight word vocabulary. There is a greater sense of confidence. Greater independence and responsibility. Students turn up on time for Lexia and are keen.”
- “ I have a large group in my class using it and I see huge potential. It is hampered by having only one computer and my lap-top though”
- “ Doing cross-trainer as well as other programme can cause more focused and settled behavior. General comprehension has improved for some students. All



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students have broken through the Level two Barrier on Lexia. Some have problems with the accent. The Silent –e is giving the most problems.

- “ My child with the most global issues found it hard to stay on it and got distracted. Other children are really keen and doing well.”
- “ It is easy to manage once the children know how to plug in the headphones and controller. Have had to push for consistent attendance to get results.”
- Group has always been positive about using Lexia. There has been an overall change noticed. Kids really love doing it. They will sit down and read with me and are more focused. Seems to be more retention of sight words and spelling words. They recognize words as words now!! _____ actually has confidence to sit a test now!”
- “Two of the students have gained a whole year in reading age since starting!!”
- “ Some of the students are showing more responsibility” The secondary system of moving every hour impacts on the influence of doing Lexia plus some kids want to do more favourite subjects like PE instead.

THE STUDENT’S VOICE

Here are the comments from the students surveyed:

- “It’s helped how to learn and how I read and make sure I don’t get my spelling wrong. It helps work out new words.
- “It’s fun to learn on it. You can play different` games on it. Lexia helps me with words.”
- “Good fun and I really like it- I done good because I tried my best and it’s good for me to learn. I went up two levels!!1”
- “It’s OK and fun. I’m better at spelling now and reading too. I got up to level three!!”
- “ It’s good but sometimes it makes it too easy. I think it works because my reading and my writing is better. It makes it better. I really like the activities on cross-trainer because they are fun.”
- ‘It takes too long because we have only four controllers. I really like Lexia because it helps me with my reading-it’s made me know more words and it has helped me with my spelling too.”
- “ I like the control games. It has helped me figure out difficult words in my class reading. It has helped me with my spelling.”
- “ The Lexia programme is great to use . It helps me with my words.”
- “ I like the way Lexia has different levels for us good readers”



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- **“ I can read bigger words, they are easier to say. I am reading more-it makes me feel brainier. It’s helped me in timestables too and with my letters.”**
- **Lexia is helping me to read and spell and sound out my words. It helps me with listening and looking.”**
- **“It’s cool when I can concentrate. The activities are cool. You like spelling the words out. I know more about new words....I want to get on to silver level one.”**
- **“ I hope we keep the Lexia stuff. I like reading now. I think I can understand better.”**

Hopefully this report will show our initial response to having Lexia as a resource is positive and we continue to be grateful to the Masonic lodge for its support and generosity in our area.

Rob Mac Donald

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Regional Co-ordinator for the Tai Tokerau district