



## **TITAHI BAY SCHOOL - KURA KIDS are Believers and Achievers**

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Dear Parents/Caregivers

We are delighted to inform you that your child, has been given a place in this term's Early Words programme.

Early Words is a programme of one-on-one systematic five minute word-focused lessons. During the five minute lesson, the child is taught, or retaught, a high frequency word at both word and sentence level. The emphasis is on accuracy and fluency.

Students have been identified and carefully placed into groups. Each group will be involved in a 15-20 minute lesson, 4 days a week, where they work one-on-one with a teacher aide on the Early Words Programme and follow up with practice on a sensory table.

### **How is the 5 Minute Early Words lesson is structured?**

The lesson has four parts:

1. The probe - where the word taught in the previous lesson is tested to see if the child has learnt it with accuracy and fluency
2. Word cards - two short word card activities to teach or reteach today's word using flash cards
3. Worksheet - the child then reads and either identifies or writes today's word to complete the sentences. Easily recognisable pictures are provided for any words not previously taught so reading the page of sentences is successful.
4. The probe - the lesson ends with a final probe

### **How many words are taught?**

The Early Words 1 programme teaches 48 words. Some words are taught both as lower case and also as capitalised. For eg. 'here' and 'Here'. Also covered are words ending with 's'. For eg. 'likes' or 'looks'. The sequel to the programme is Early Words 2 where another 63 words are taught.

Students are monitored closely. Most students show progress, increased confidence and are more self-aware of their reading ability after working in this programme.

If you have any questions about the programme or your child's progress, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you

Mike Laing

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Associate Principal/Teacher in charge of Target Programmes