



Children with Phonological Awareness difficulties often have difficulty keeping up with the curriculum expectations in the classroom. Difficulties may include reading instructions on the whiteboard or worksheets, understanding written information or completing written language activities within the same timeframe as their peers.

Early intervention to help support Phonological Awareness development is important to support children's learning. Some children may already be receiving Reading Recovery support or other such literacy support programmes within their school. The Phonological Awareness course is designed to help your child gain further benefit from this additional support provided by their school.

How to contact us

If you have concerns regarding your child's reading and writing skills, please contact the Speech and Language Clinic during business hours to make an appointment.

Clinical Reception

T: +64 3 369 3133

F: +64 3 364 2760

Email: clinic@cmds.canterbury.ac.nz

We are located in the Department of Communication Disorders, in the Geography building. The clinical reception is on Level 1, accessed through the Arts Road entrance.

A map showing our location and the location of available parking can be found at

www.cmds.canterbury.ac.nz/clinicalservices.shtml

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Phonological
Awareness Clinic
Communication Disorders



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Te Rāngai Pūtaiao

Phonological Awareness Clinic



What is Phonological Awareness?

Phonological Awareness refers to the awareness of sounds in words and the ability to manipulate these to help with sounding out words when reading and writing. These skills are necessary foundation skills for literacy development.

A child with Phonological Awareness difficulties may have problems with:

- Sounding out words when reading
- Understanding what they read
- Poor spelling skills
- Reading and writing



How are Phonological Awareness skills assessed?

Speech-language therapists assess Phonological Awareness abilities through a variety of tasks. Your child will complete reading, writing and spelling activities to determine areas of strength and challenge. Written language samples and reading levels may also be discussed with your child's classroom teacher. Following these assessments we may discuss a treatment plan for improving your child's literacy development.

How can Phonological Awareness skills be improved?

Research shows that intensive intervention targeting areas of difficulty will improve overall literacy skills. The Speech and Language Clinic offers a Phonological Awareness course that is designed to help children to become more aware of sound structures within spoken and written words. Therapy typically occurs twice weekly, with individual and group sessions. Therapy start dates coincide with University Semesters (end of February, mid July).