

# Designing a Literacy Action Plan

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## Common Framework to Facilitate Literacy Learning

- Effective change is informed by a good understanding of the starting point. The Asset Map, school reviews, observations of literacy and leadership fellows, and the honest appreciation of current effectiveness all contribute to the self-review process.
- The Asset Map and review of other data is followed by developing a plan identifying the key aspirations of the school. The Literacy Action Plan should include both qualitative and quantitative elements and cover both short term and distant aims.
- Training and development priorities should be identified to secure the identified aims. Training needs to operate at a number of levels; management, teacher subject knowledge, and teaching and learning issues, but at all times focus on the contribution made to learning outcomes.
- The change cycle begins again as schools are encouraged to monitor, review, celebrate success, and refocus by identifying areas for further attention. Building learning communities requires an open culture where all participants are open and accountable. The management process, teachers, and the contribution of others are all evaluated.

## Alignment with the Framework

School development plans for literacy or any other area of the curriculum are not necessarily a good idea. They can become management processes that have little to do with the core business of teaching and learning in classrooms.

Cornerstone schools must stitch together the Framework which is all about teaching and learning and the school development plan which should describe the aspirations of the school and outline the action which will provide the conditions for improvement.

The latest draft of the Framework combines the content that children should be taught with the pedagogical arrangements for the delivery of the curriculum. This unique and powerful design presents a good opportunity to align the processes of literacy improvement with the tricky issue of outcomes. Using the emerging Framework to limit and focus the areas for development we can work with schools to describe not only how things should be, we can go further, and define the potential outcomes they should see. The Framework matrix includes a range of cells where content is associated with a particular learning opportunity in the literacy block. Progress will be achieved as children secure the content and begin

A vision without a plan is only a dream.

Joel Barker

Coming together is a beginning. Staying together is a process. Working together is success.

Henry Ford

to use their learning strategies to become independent, self-improving learners. The concept of cells is useful as it implies a situation where learning is not linear but it is accumulative. The cells contain key learning objectives and provide a good basis for assessment.

## **An Example**

We may decide to promote the idea that at the beginning of some literacy lessons teachers should work with the whole class to write a text together. Against this teaching procedure we could easily line up a set of learning outcomes which could follow. First grade example:

- Nonfiction – Develop the ability to write simple instructions in correct order.
- Fiction – Use language structures from reading when writing.

Both of these outcomes are best taught in shared or whole class writing. Of course, the application and consolidation of the learning will occur as the children write independently for a variety of purposes and audiences. The key idea is to generate links not only between the content of the curriculum and pedagogy but to go further and keep the teaching and learning focus right at the heart of the school development plan.

## **Implications**

The development of the Framework should include not only content and pedagogical organization but also key learning outcomes.

The school development plan should link to the Framework and identify key expectations against particular cells.

## **–The Literacy Action Plan**

should link to the Framework, school priorities, and the Asset Map goals.