



MEDIA RELEASE

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PAL Programme makes a difference

Five young clients of MontroseAccess went to work over their school holidays, graduating from a new literacy programme developed by the University of Queensland on 25 January.

The PAL Programme - Phonological Awareness for Literacy – has been recently revised by the University, but not yet published, with MontroseAccess clients the first to benefit.

The participating children are between ten and eleven years of age, and have varied physical disabilities that often affect their ability to read and write. They came from all over Brisbane to attend group and individual sessions at the Corinda site over a period of three weeks – three mornings a week, three hours a session.

“The PAL Programme has been especially designed for children with literacy difficulties,” said MontroseAccess Speech Pathologist Pam Grant. “It aims to teach kids stronger sound awareness; to recognize letters quickly and the sounds they make; distinguish between short and long vowels, and decipher complex word endings.

“We establish this familiarity by using rhymes and basic spelling and reading exercises. We give the children a workbook and flash cards that they can take home with them and leave in their desk at school for handy reference.

“Some kids learn to read no matter how they’re taught,” Pam explained. “Others pick up some skills but need one on one attention. The PAL Programme provides this.”

Aldo Carnevale said his son Daniel, who has just started year six, has benefited immensely from the programme. “Daniel enjoyed himself very much, and his reading has really improved,” he said. “I think it’s a wonderful programme, and I’m looking forward to seeing Daniel apply these skills at school and impressing his teacher.”

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