

Taradale Intermediate School Report

Taradale Intermediate has been using **Toe by Toe**, with RTLB support, since early 2006. A priority has been sticking to the programme as advised by the authors. Teacher assistants have worked as tutors for 20 minute sessions, four times a week. A hidden benefit has been that the teacher assistants have gained professional knowledge through supporting and mentoring each other, as well as their involvement in the Toe by Toe process. Dylan (named changed) is the school's first success story, one of many to follow, he has been involved from the beginning and has made impressive progress.

Here is his evaluation of the Toe by Toe programme,
"Toe by Toe has been a great offer for me in many different ways. In reading and spelling it has opened my eyes to many different books. When I first started Toe by Toe I didn't like reading, I would do anything to avoid it, but now I feel good about reading.

I'm so thankful to have had this opportunity to become a better reader and I'm glad that I got through it alive. At some parts of my journey from May 16 2006 until November 2007, I felt that this little red book was never ending but after a few bumps and hurdles I made it and say thanks a lot to my tutor Mrs Chalmers."

In collecting evidence for using and monitoring *Toe by Toe* two tools were used: -

Burt Word Reading Test (1981) was used as pre-test and monitoring tool, for its use as an indicator of specific weaknesses in decoding.

PROBE Prose Reading Observation Behaviour and Evaluation of Comprehension is also used as an assessment of reading accuracy, behaviour and comprehension.

Over 17 months, Dylan has improved by 5.2 years in Burt and 5 years in Probe.