

## **An Introduction to LanguageLift**

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### **Abstract**

MultiLit develops evidence-based literacy programs for use in schools. In 2022, we launched LanguageLift, a small group (Tier 2) oral language intervention program for children in the first three years of school who are demonstrating oral language difficulties. Good early oral language ability is a critical factor contributing to later literacy achievement (National Early Literacy Panel, 2008), and a comprehensive approach to teaching reading and writing should include a focus on oral language skills from the outset (e.g., Storch & Whitehurst, 2002). The earlier oral language remediation can be offered the better. In this talk, I will outline the design principles of LanguageLift and discuss the results of our 2022 program trial, demonstrating that children offered 6 months of intervention make significant oral language gains on several standardised language measures.

National Early Literacy Panel. (2008). Developing early literacy: Report of the National Early Literacy Panel. *National Institute for Literacy*.

<https://www.nichd.nih.gov/sites/default/files/publications/pubs/documents/NELPReport09.pdf>

Storch, S. A., & Whitehurst, G. J. (2002). Oral language and code-related precursors to reading: Evidence from a longitudinal structural model. *Developmental Psychology*, 38(6), 934–947.

<https://doi.org/10.1037/0012-1649.38.6.934>

### **Bio**

Dr Anna Desjardins is a Research Fellow in MultiLit Research Unit (MRU) and Product Developer for MultiLit.

Anna has a Research Masters (Cum Laude) in Linguistics from the University of Amsterdam and a PhD in Cognitive Science from Macquarie University. Her PhD thesis, in the field of child language acquisition, was awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Commendation for Academic Excellence.

Prior to joining MultiLit she worked as a research officer on a range of child language development projects at the University of Western Sydney and Macquarie University and lectured within the Department of Linguistics at Macquarie University. She now develops materials for MultiLit programs as a member of the Product Development team, and contributes to associated research and program evaluations as a member of the MultiLit Research Unit.

Anna has also authored a collection of poetry for children and several of MultiLit's new picture books, published by Putto Press.