

Jackie Day

BSc, MbChb, PGCE



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Jackie is a retired primary school Special Educational Needs Coordinator and the author of some supporting materials for the Sound Discovery® Programme, including many decodable texts.

Jackie obtained a medical qualification back in 1980, but for family reasons took a career break. Whilst looking after her young daughters, she became involved in the local church and ran the Sunday school. On discovering a love of both children and teaching, she decided to change course and pursue a PGCE qualification.

Working part time for most of her career led Jackie to focus on children with Special Educational Needs. The Junior School where she taught employed her as an extra teacher to help those who were struggling to learn as well as the brightest children who needed enrichment. Indeed, at that time, a number of children were starting at the school each year in Y3 unable to read at all.

Initially, Jackie followed the teaching advice of various colleagues with expertise in Special Needs Education. She also implemented additional literacy programmes produced by the government. However, In 2000 Jackie met Marlynne and was introduced to her systematic synthetic phonics (SSP) programme, Sound Discovery®. This was long before SSP was endorsed by the government as the most effective way of teaching reading. The programme transformed Jackie's work and produced results for children that impressed her Head Teacher. Because very few decodable books

existed at that time, Jackie started writing stories and other texts to supplement the programme. Seeing children enjoy reading for the first time made the effort more than worthwhile.

Whilst working as the Special Educational Needs Coordinator, Jackie began to train individuals and other schools in both literacy and numeracy interventions. A particular highlight of this time was being involved in a literacy project (organised by Elizabeth Nonweiler) on Carriacou, a small island in the Caribbean. On the first visit teachers were trained and on a follow up visit their teaching was monitored. For a number of years latterly Jackie also acted as a Special Needs Consultant for a local independent school.

Jackie has supported Marlynne with Sound Discovery® phonics training both locally and nationally, including under the English Hubs training programme. During the pandemic lockdowns, Jackie and Marlynne worked collaboratively on an electronic version of their training. They also produced a set of phonics videos, each of which ended with a decodable story.

Recently, for the Catholic publisher Redemptorist, Jackie wrote the 24 decodable Bible Stories (Faith in Phonics) for which Marlynne was phonics consultant.