

Dr Marlynn Grant BSc, Cert Ed, M Ed Psych, PhD, AFBPsS, C Psychol.



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BSc, Cert Ed, M Ed Psych, PhD, AFBPsS, C Psychol.

Registered as Educational Psychologist with HCPC (Health & Care Professions Council)

Dr Marlynn Grant is the author of the systematic synthetic phonics programmes, Sound Discovery® and Rapid Phonics.

Marlynn is a trained teacher with a PhD from the Education Department, Cambridge University and a professional Masters qualification in Educational Psychology from Exeter University.

Marlynn practised for many years as a Local Authority Educational Psychologist in Kent, Bristol, Avon, Somerset and South Gloucestershire. She also worked as an Independent Educational Psychologist specialising in specific learning difficulties/dyslexia. In addition she worked for the Dyslexia Institute, now Dyslexia Action. She is a committee member of the Reading Reform Foundation which campaigns for the better teaching of reading in the English Language and she was an Associate of the English Hubs Training Centre.

In the 1990s she became increasingly involved with children who struggle to learn to read. This prompted her to investigate how young children were being taught to read from the beginning of their schooling, focusing on their infant years

She conducted an eight year research study (1997-2004) into systematic synthetic phonics (SSP) with her Local Authority. Working with whole classes, she followed over 700

Reception children throughout their Primary Education. The study helped to inform government policy, as reported in Hansard (2004) and in the House of Commons report *Teaching Children to Read* (2005).

She then conducted a further longitudinal study (2010-2013) in a Catholic Primary school with a designation for travellers. A leading specialist in the field reported that the studies yielded the best results, year on year, that she had ever seen. The studies were especially effective with vulnerable groups, including the disadvantaged and those with special educational needs. The results of the research are referenced in the government policy paper, *The reading framework* (2023). The range of potentially vulnerable children included the socially disadvantaged, those with English as an Additional Language, those with Special Educational Needs, boys, summer birthdays, dyslexia, those with significant social, emotional and behavioural difficulties and those identified with challenging behaviour requiring additional managing.

Based on Marlynne's experience of what works best, she wrote the phonics programme *Sound Discovery*® which was validated by the Department for Education (April 2022) as a complete SSP programme. She also wrote the 'daughter' programme *Rapid Phonics* with Pearson Education. She was the Language Consultant on the popular *Easy words to read* children's story books published by Usborne.

She was fortunate to meet up in 2000 with Jackie Day, a local Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator. Since then Jackie has written many phonics resources and has become very skilled at writing decodable text. For many years, they delivered phonics training locally and across the country. This included training for the English Hubs Training Initiative. During the pandemic they wrote the *Sound Discovery*® e-learning training and created child-friendly, active phonics video lessons with e-stories and printable e-booklets.

Recently, Marlynne and Jackie have written a series of 24 decodable Bible stories, called *Faith in Phonics*™ with a Catholic publishing company, Redemptorist Publications. The *Faith in Phonics*™ series aims to complement a school's existing synthetic phonics programme with decodable storybooks, providing a Christian faith focus.