

Guidance on the Use of Positive Declarations

Psychological research has shown that making bold positive declarations about future reading achievement can have a significant impact on both reading ability and attitude to reading (see McKay 2006).

The following is some guidance for you about how to implement this practice in your own classroom.

The expectation is that each child will make a minimum of 3 positive declarations per day about future reading achievement and the enjoyment of books/ reading. Declarations can be general or specific and can be done individually, in groups or as a whole class group.

Declarations typically begin with the phrase, *I will...* They should be about future reading achievement or enjoyment.

I will become a good reader.

I will be able to read all the words in my word box.

I love books.

I will read lots of books this term.

Reading is fun.

Please feel free to use any of these sample declarations, to generate your own ideas or to encourage the children to propose their own suggestions.

Typically, this kind of intervention runs for about one term. The weekly self-monitoring sheet below may be helpful to you.

Positive Declarations

Weekly Teacher Self-Monitoring Record Sheet

Class _____ Week Beginning _____

Day	Time of Day	Affirmations used	Individual I Group G Whole Class W
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			
Other comments/ Additional activities introduced			

Signed _____

Time of day: this helps you monitor that affirmations are used three times a day, spread throughout the school day

Sample affirmations: no need to write out each and every affirmation, but just note an example or two to check for variety

Individual, group or whole class: Note whether the affirmations were done collectively or not, if the affirmations are done in a mixed way, for example, some group and some whole class, note G +W etc