



## Aston Literacy Project

Phase 3: Summer 2012

**Thank you for your support and involvement in this project.  
We hope you will find this summary of our findings interesting.**

**We shared our findings with the 'Further research in literacy and language' research group at the Institute of Education, London in June 2012.**

**We are planning a trip to Hong Kong in July 2013 to present our results at the SSSR conference (Society for the Scientific Study of Reading). [www.triplesr.org/](http://www.triplesr.org/)**

Phase 3 of ALP took place during summer 2012 and involved re-testing the original set of 800 Reception children previously tested in the Autumn term. The main purpose of phase 3 was to establish which skills at the beginning of reading instruction were associated with reading ability at the end of the first year of learning to read.

The research assistants thoroughly enjoyed working with the reception children again and it was great to see how much progress they had made.

As in the Autumn, the average standard score for Maths was approximately 100 which is the national average.

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At the end of Reception the children were able to read an average of 23 out of 26 letter sounds which shows a massive improvement compared to an average of 13 at the beginning of Reception.

They also performed a lot better on our standardised reading tests. There was a significant difference between the number of words children could read in the autumn, an average of 2, and the number of words they could read in the summer, an average of 13.

In our analyses, we found that these 3 skills in the Autumn were the strongest predictors of word reading in the Summer:

- isolating phonemes (e.g. the first sound in *san* is *s*)
- repeating individual sounds by pressing aliens on a screen, (e.g. *g*, *p*, *k* = *left*, *right* then *centre alien*).
- manipulating phonemes (e.g. *guff* without the *g* is *uff*)

These measures accounted for 41% of the variance in word reading; children who performed better on these tasks at the beginning of Reception could successfully read more words at the end of reception.

We were able to re-test 96% of the children who were originally tested in the Autumn term. This is a fantastic recapture rate. Thank you to all the schools for letting us come back and to all the research assistants who worked so hard to test every child.

The same 800 children will again be retested at the end of Year 1 to further see how their reading and related skills have improved.

Thank you for participating in phase 3 of ALP. We look forward to seeing you in the summer of 2013 for the final phase. As always, happy reading!