

John Walters, Australia  
Author/researcher, Fish Tale Education  
[scarcelywrite@gmail.com](mailto:scarcelywrite@gmail.com)

**Immersive reading: Enhancing language-rich conversations in parent-child read aloud sessions using PAIR picture books**

The first six years of child's life have immense impact on the development of language and cognitive skills, and are the building blocks for early literacy development. While parents are considered the "first teachers", research shows that significant numbers of children are arriving at school inadequately prepared to learn. A new approach is required.

A team of educators in Australia has created a researched-based, but simple-to-use, in-book technique called "Immersive Reading" that guides the parent during the read aloud process. It does this by providing parent prompts and questions to stimulate a language-rich conversation with the child. Parents with limited literacy skills are also supported with a subset called "Iconic Reading" which uses wordless books and special icons to generate questions. This process also helps indigenous groups to bridge the oral-written barrier.

An Australian multi-university study and several international school-based case studies will be presented to demonstrate the exceptional results being achieved by young children. Initial findings from the IRIS (Indigenous) project will also be explored.

Our team is inviting other groups to trial the process.