

This learning guide is designed for use by Professional Learning Communities, learning coaches and teacher leaders, or as a self-paced study to enhance and support teacher practice in the area of literacy for students with significant disabilities.

## Literacy for All:

*In Conversation with  
Dr. Caroline Musselwhite*



This conversation guide is intended to be used after viewing the video clip, **Choosing Words for the Classroom Word Wall**.



### General synopsis

In this short video clip, Dr. Caroline Musselwhite shares her two rules for choosing words to create an effective classroom word wall.

### Key understandings

- When choosing words for the classroom word wall, choose:
  - high frequency words that are part of useful word families (e.g., cat as in bat, fat, mat, rat)
  - high frequency words that are difficult to decode.
- Word walls need to be used to support real reading and writing activities.

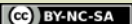
### Questions for discussion

- How does this video clip challenge or affirm what you know about the use of classroom word walls?
- What are some ways to make word walls more accessible to the differing needs of students in the classroom?
- What is one change you could make to ensure your classroom word wall is more effective for all students in your classroom?

### For more information

- Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium. *Literacy for All*. <http://abliteracyforall.wikispaces.com/>
- Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium. (2012). Working with Words [Video file]. Retrieved from <http://inclusiveeducationpdresources.ca/literacy/videos.php#2>
- Erickson, K., and Koppenhaver, D. (2007). *Children with Disabilities: Reading and Writing the Four Blocks® Way* Greensboro, NC: Carson-Dellosa. 112–130.
- Musselwhite, C. *AAC intervention*. <http://aacintervention.com/>

### Acknowledgement:

This guide was developed through a collaboration between Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium and Alberta Education. It is freely provided in support of improved teaching and learning under the following Creative Commons licence. 

Link to the Inclusive Education: Support for Implementation website at <http://inclusiveeducationpdresources.ca/> for Professional Development Resources.

For further information on learning opportunities to support inclusion, visit <http://www.arpdc.ab.ca/>.