

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, **Importance of Repetition and Variety in Learning**.



General synopsis

In this short video clip, Dr. Caroline Musselwhite discusses the importance of meaningful repetition in learning, particularly for students with significant disabilities.

Key understandings

- The brain is a pattern detector and students with significant disabilities need help “seeing” the patterns in text.
- Multiple repetition of a text for different purposes increases students’ comprehension and fluency.

Questions for discussion

- Share an example of how you have structured a learning activity to help students see and experience patterns in text.
- From your own experience, describe an example where the use of repetition made a positive impact on a student’s learning.
- How do you share a single story multiple times, and keep students meaningfully engaged? How do you ensure repetition deepens students’ understanding of text?
- What is one new teaching idea that this video clip has given you? How can you use this in your classroom?

For more information

- Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium. *Literacy for All*. Retrieved from <http://abliteracyforall.wikispaces.com/>
- Erickson, K., and Koppenhaver, D. (2007). *Children with Disabilities: Reading and Writing the Four Blocks® Way* Greensboro, NC: Carson-Dellosa.
- Musselwhite, C. AAC intervention. Retrieved from <http://aacintervention.com/>
- National Reading Panel report. <http://www.nationalreadingpanel.org/Publications/summary.htm>

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/>.