

Feedback / Testimonials

Please write in about your experience! mwnev@kitehawk.net

Testimonial for Mark Nevill - Kitehawk learning system (WA Country High School based)

As an Education Support trained teacher, I have been using the Kitehawk learning workbooks for the last four years, after first seeing them used with great success in Kalgoorlie. I have used all five books in the series. They are highly effective for use with remedial students and as a support program to help students catch up who have missed chunks of school. Through my work as an Indigenous tutor, I have seen students experience success and have their confidence soar as a result of this program. The predictability of the programme's structure means that, once the students have mastered the core skills, they are able to work through the books quickly and independently. The sequential nature of the books means that they can keep repeating these core skills with increasingly difficult word lists. One student said that "She was having fun for once!". Comments like these speak volumes in regards to the efficacy of the program. I heartily recommend the Kitehawk learning program and have found it to be one of the best tools to promote learning and engagement in remedial literacy programmes.

Teacher specialising in Aboriginal Literacy

A teacher, who had great success with the Kitehawk workbooks with Aboriginal students in Kalgoorlie removed from the school system because of behaviour problems, recently moved to Perth to start teaching at a large Aboriginal College (High School). She reports a good response with Level 2 .. " they got right into them! ".

AZ a Speech Therapist NSW

I'm a speech pathologist who has been using your workbooks with a couple of kids for a few years now.

They are very appropriate for the work I do with them. I've not found any other book/series laid out quite so well as yours.

I recommend your books to all families I work with (who need reading/spelling help). There are a couple of families every once in a while, though, who I know just won't be able to buy your books (due to parents' poor literacy), so I purchase the book to donate to the child.

Congratulations on such a great and affordable resource, Mark.

Teacher at NSW Aboriginal College

I have a small adult literacy class and I use the Kitehawk Program as the basis of my program. I find your books are the best on the market for students who have missed the basics of spelling and therefore reading & writing.

My students range in age from 17 to 60 years old, all are Aboriginal, some have very poor literacy skills and some are good readers but poor spellers. They find that your books can be worked through independently and they pick up on spelling patterns and rules without consciously knowing it. This means that when I teach these rules they already have an awareness from the exercises in your books.

'Confident spellers make confident writers and readers.'

The way you have set out the exercises, using repetition in instructions and questions improves reading skills and reinforces language patterns.

So I am very happy using Kitehawk and will continue to do so.
Keep up the good work

Teacher Country South Australia

I have been using your spelling books and my spelling program has gone through the roof. The students LOVE spelling and love completing your worksheets. They also love doing the dictation which I do every week too. Your layout and short simple repetitive questions are achievable for all levels. Just in my class alone of grade 3 and 4 kids, I have 5 levels, so your books have provided me with great lists of words to follow and activities that practise the important skills. I have also found the word lists great in the way there are often some easy words but some challenging ones too which helps students grasp the connections between words. The number of list words are spot on!!

Education Coordinator South Australian Prison

We have had good results using Kitehawk workbooks,

Small Literacy Business Owner & Teacher

I have been conducting workshops in phonics and some teachers have told me about your great materials!

We are always looking for good basic spelling materials - both for our kids here and some we teach in Singapore.

Principal Kimberley Remote Community School

I have had the director **** and the principal consultant ***** visit my school this term. I have shown them the work the children have done with the Kitehawk Spelling Program and both were impressed. The years 4-7 have been working with the program since the beginning of the year and the year three children have just started with the red book this term."

Home Schooler who was travelling around Australia

I just wanted to say I have found your material great in Homeschooling my girls. We had been lagging behind in spelling and your workbooks have really helped pick that up.

I have been recommending them to other home schoolers. Thanks for your great work."

Teacher from a Juvenile Prison

My name is **** and I am one of the teachers at ***** who is using the Kitehawk Spelling Program. The girls I work with love working through the books and enjoy the challenges they present.

What I like about them is that they are designed for young people of all abilities. Whether they are at the early stages of language development or a little more advanced, the books allow the learner to progress at a steady rate. They are not demeaning in any way to young adults who use the books which is a problem so often found when more mature students are learning to read and write.

Most of the young people who we put on this program are just learning to

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read and write. The simple layout, basic sight words and repetitive nature of the words make it very user friendly. The learner is able to experience success and is motivated to continue, progressing through the book and levels. I use these books extensively and certificate the learner when they have completed units of work.

Adult Education Prisoner Teacher

"I think the books are terrific Mark. They are so suitable for our guys ...the size of the font make a big difference ... the layout and the covers ... and the dictionary at the back too is a fantastic idea. Thank you for your contribution to literacy in Australia."

Adult Learner Atwell WA

"I am a metalworker and three times I have been asked to take on the Supervisors job. I have refused the promotion because of my poor spelling and the lack of confidence that caused. I am now on Level 4 of the program and my spelling, writing and confidence have improved beyond what I thought possible. I was never taught the basics spelling skills that I have learned in this program."

A Queensland teacher

Commenting about the website 'I am currently teaching at a State School in North Queensland. I have been using the program since 2005. I have found it to be an excellent resource. I use the book as a teaching resource for daily spelling activities for the levels of lists. (I teach grade 5 and 6). I have found the LCWC sheets to be really valuable. It saves time and effort of having to check that they have copied their list correctly. The students love the crosswords, which really help them with understanding meanings.

I have seen good results and motivated students from using your program. It is very teacher friendly to use in conjunction with the website features. It saves a great deal of time in planning and designing tasks, and it allows me to feel that I am covering a great deal of literacy aspects. I no longer wonder if I am covering all the important aspects."

Remedial Teacher - Geraldton WA

"This year I used your Level 2 book for a 16 year-old Aboriginal boy with limited schooling. This book has worked well. Even though we haven't made it half way through the book, what he's done he knows! He's much more confident and he enjoys doing the work. When given the choice of an alternative (photocopied sheets), for a change, the answer is 'No, Miss, I'll do the workbook.' He likes the routine, I think.

He is returning to Port Hedland next year, so I'll give him the workbook to take with him. I like the workbooks, I think the structure is excellent."

Adult Self-help Learner - Fremantle

"I left school barely being able to read and write. On my own, I have now worked through Levels 1, 2, 3 and have started Level 4 and have learned things that I wasn't taught at school. I now have the spelling skills to tackle words I don't know and I always have a dictionary handy, which I now know how to use! I have really enjoyed the program and recently read my first book. This program has unlocked a new-world for me and given me confidence."

'Confident spellers make confident writers and readers.'

East Kimberley WA Teacher

Commenting about the program.... "Slowly the word is getting around. The workbooks are great value, the kids love working in them and they help develop their understandings beautifully. Well done!"

Port Hedland teacher

"Thanks for the books (Level 1 & 2). I'm using Level 1 already. I have a special needs child who enjoys using the Level 1 book and is actually keen to continue with the work. This is great news. Thanks again."