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Dr Brendan Nelson,

Recently on T.V. I heard you say you were anxious to find out why boys' performances were less than those of girls.

Let me tell you what I know – and there isn't much worthwhile left that I don't know.

I was a fanatic in my search for perfection in the teaching of academic skills – I retired in 1985. In 1962 my class of 40 children – 20 Year 3, 20 Year 4. 24 were seriously handicapped with reversals and transposals of letters. The movements of spotlights in the film "Dambusters" gave me the due that the eyes were not functioning properly.

[diagram not reproduced]

This regular flick of one eye backwards or forwards pointed the way to

1. Stop teaching in the usual pattern of sentences.

\* 2. Teach reading one word at a time with large print with seraphs.

My year 3 had averages of 55% at the end of their Year 2. At the end of Year 3 – 65%. At the end of Year 4 – 75%. At the end of Year 5 – 95%.

On a historic occasion Tony Dates's wife, Noeline came to hear that their elder daughter, Diane suffered this eye genetic malfunction. When I showed her my large printed sheets she asked me for some for her home use.

\* I began page 1 and finished 10 years later on page 125 – the most common words a child uses in the Primary school.

7 years later I tested Diane and all traces of the ESOPHORIA had disappeared and she later graduated into the upper area of hospitality.

I taught 1075 children in 9 years, children from Noalimba Migrant Centre. One girl had never been taught reading – aged 10y.3m. With 10 days of brainwashing with phonics she scored a growth of 2 years and 4 months. Every child in Australia in a primary school needs to sound and say for 20 – 30 minutes per day – using this book which needs to be updated. Nobody has ever wanted it so I haven't added to it.

The present disaster of illiteracy began when Bob Pierce in the Burke Govt. used a New York curriculum in WA Schools and omitted phonics.

Few teachers know how to teach phonics in an interesting fashion so they were glad to see the new course. And nobody was brave enough to speak up.

This is a brief summary of the 30 pages of material I've typed over the years.

If you want to read more about it either write or ring and I'll seek the help of Darryl William's office to not far away for photocopying etc. Also I devised a Unit Progress Scheme in mathematics for Years 3 – 7 for the Primary School which could be completed in 50 hours and I saw many students do it. When I retired I gave the lot to Geoff Miller at Dalwalhru School because nobody wanted the sheets, Perhaps they could be recovered.

The same for written expression. The material I have typed is the story of my life and miserable failures of so many Principals and bureaucrats – plus aspects of literacy.

But one thing I'm sure of – nobody will approve of the strict regime needed to improve literacy.

Probably you won't listen – but I'll keep trying.

Regards

Geoffrey A. Fruslove

\* A photocopy costs about \$30