

termed 'in press'. We hope at least one of them will be published in the near future. If you wish to read the reports that have been published to date, go to [www.literacyinnovators.co.nz](http://www.literacyinnovators.co.nz)  
The results of the studies consistently show that the class overall achieves accelerated gains in literacy comprehension and that these gains are sustained and built on over time.

## About the films

In addition to reading what is on the website, you may also wish to know more about the films your children will be viewing. These films have been very carefully chosen and have to meet the following criteria in primary schools:

- 1) All AVAILL feature films are based upon a book as it is the intention to lead the children to the literature behind the film
- 2) The film classification needs to be correct for each age group.
- 3) There is no gratuitous violence, sexual content or profanity.
- 4) The films need to be appealing to the age group
- 5) The films need to be obtainable in Australasia  
The films your child will be viewing are:

If you are not familiar with these films and wish to know more about them there are two websites that are useful.

The first is [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com) If you scroll down to the link that says 'Parent Advisory', you will see a description of anything that may be remotely of concern.

Another website is [www.common sense.com](http://www.common sense.com) and this site has reviews by parents and children as well as the recommended appropriate age for viewing.

If you go to [www.literacyinnovators.co.nz](http://www.literacyinnovators.co.nz) you will see AVAILL lessons in action in a school in North Canterbury.

## What you can do to assist at home

### WATCHING A MOVIE - TURN ON THE SUBTITLES

When you are watching a video at home try turning on the subtitle feature. It is a little unusual to read and watch the movie at the same time but you soon get used to it. It has been found that many children, after experiencing AVAILL prefer to turn on the subtitles when watching a movie. They are then reading continuously for up to two hours (three if it is a film such as *The Hobbit*)!!!

# AVAILL

Audio Visual Achievement in  
Literacy Language and Learning

# LITERACY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME



## WHY WE ARE WATCHING FILMS AT SCHOOL TO ADVANCE YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING

Information for parents  
and caregivers

## A NOTICE FROM YOUR SCHOOL

### TO: PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

We will soon be implementing a very novel, yet fun way to help improve your child's literacy development in reading, comprehension, vocabulary, fluency and spelling.

During the next \_\_ weeks, the children of Room \_\_ will be using the AVAILLL literacy enhancement programme during their instructional reading time.

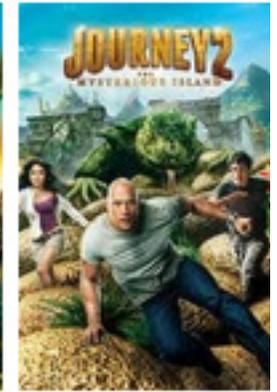
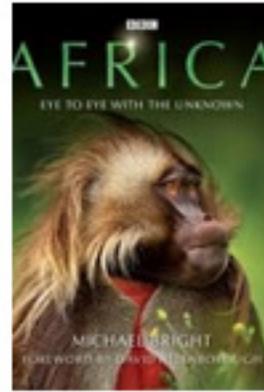
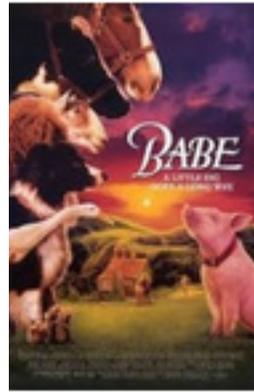
I thought you may appreciate understanding more about this valuable programme and how it will benefit your child's learning.

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Teacher

### What is AVAILLL?

AVAILLL is an acronym for Audio Visual Achievement in Literacy Language and Learning and was originally developed in the USA by Dr Alice Killackey. Since 2008, AVAILLL has been based in New Zealand and New Zealand literacy specialist, Chuck Marriott, has led the development to suit the needs of our children.



### About the programme and how it benefits your child

AVAILLL replaces the regular classroom reading programme for a period of six to seven weeks. During that time, the whole class is involved in intensive lessons that develop skills in reading comprehension, vocabulary, fluency and spelling in novel and fun ways. The class will be watching a number of full-length feature films plus parts of a documentary.

While they watch the films, the subtitle feature is turned on and the children are trained to read the subtitles while watching and listening to the film. As they watch the films they engage in a wide variety of literacy activities; some individual and some in teams. The feature films are each viewed over a period of four days but only portions of the documentaries are used.

In most primary classrooms in New Zealand the children are ability grouped for reading instruction and there are management and instructional advantages for doing so. AVAILLL departs from

this teaching model as the class works together with everyone doing the same work. Being given roles as Student Assistants who help run the programme extends the more able children. Less able students are supported by their peers and by sensitive intervention by the teacher as necessary. Teachers report that the class 'tone' and spirit improve during the AVAILLL time as everyone is brought together to do something very special.

### A proven success in the classroom!

Schools in New Zealand are advised to use evidence-based programmes to ensure that the best use is made of valuable class time. It is not an exaggeration to say that AVAILLL is the most researched literacy programme currently being used in New Zealand. Since 2008, AVAILLL has been continually researched by an independent team of researchers based at the University of Canterbury. To date they have conducted seven large-scale studies. These studies have been supervised by fellow academics and the results have been peer reviewed. Two of the studies have yet to be published and are what is