

## *Is Your Child Falling Behind? A Parent's Guide to Identifying Early Literacy Gaps*

### **The 5 Signs**

#### **1. The "Great Escape" Artist**

**The Behaviour:** Your child finds every excuse to avoid reading; sudden thirst, a stomach ache or losing their book.

**The Insight:** This isn't laziness or "naughtiness." It is a **coping mechanism** for a task that feels physically or mentally exhausting.

#### **2. The "Guesser" vs. The "Reader"**

**The Behaviour:** When faced with a new word, they look at the first letter and guess based on the picture or say a word that "looks similar" (e.g., reading "house" as "horse").

**The Insight:** They haven't mastered **decoding**. They are relying on visual memory rather than understanding the phonetic structure of language.

#### **3. The "Robot" Reader**

**The Behaviour:** They can read the words out loud, but their voice is flat and they don't seem to understand what happened in the story once the page is turned.

**The Insight:** This is a **comprehension gap**. Their brain is working so hard to "sound out" words that there is no mental energy left to process the meaning.

#### **4. Difficulty with Rhyming or Word Games**

**The Behaviour:** They struggle to identify words that rhyme or have trouble breaking a word like "Cat" into its three sounds (/k/ /a/ /t/).

**The Insight:** This points to a gap in **Phonological Awareness**- the foundation upon which all reading is built.

#### **5. The "Good at Everything Else" Paradox**

**The Behaviour:** Your child is highly articulate, creative or great at math, yet their reading and writing don't match their intelligence level.

**The Insight:** This often signals a **Neurodiverse learning style** (like Dyslexia). Their brain is wired differently and the "standard" school method isn't speaking its language.