**AUTISM HUB - READING**

**VOICEOVER SCRIPT**

Here are five facts about students with autism and reading, that you need to know.

When it comes to reading, the skills of students with autism are unique and varied. The best way to support students with autism learn to read is using practices which have been researched and shown to have success.

**Students with autism do and can engage with reading**

Reading instruction is important for all students, at all stages of learning.

A student does not need to use verbal language, or demonstrate a skill to begin learning to read.

**Students with autism have unique skills and strengths when learning to read**

Some students with autism are great at word reading, some have strong comprehension, and some show strengths in both.

A small percentage of students have the ability to read words, but may not understand their meaning. For example, to be a good reader, students need to understand that letters are linked to sounds, words and sentences which carry meaning.

**Students with autism learn to read the same way as their peers**

Building on what we already know about reading instruction, we can individualise this for students with autism by considering a student’s strengths, special interests and their physical environment and sensory needs.

**A team approach supports the reading skills of students with autism**

Reading requires careful consideration of many factors. Starting with parents and students, a skilled team working together can provide the right support for every student.

**Support reading using recognised autism practices**

There are practices that have been proven to be effective over time, such as structured teaching, visual supports and technology aided instruction. These practices are useful in ensuring a student-focussed, strengths-based approach to reading instruction.

No matter what stage of their learning, by keeping in mind these five facts, you are supporting students with autism to be successful readers.

For more information, please visit our website: autismhub.education.qld.gov.au