

NURTURE

P A R E N T I N G



Toby's reading skills have turned around

SIMON DEAN, -
PP262841

Toby's literacy leap

Tessa Akerman

ONE of the biggest worries for a parent is their child's performance at school.

Early signs that a child is behind his peers adds stress to homework, anxiety during parent-teacher meetings and worries about confidence levels and social interaction.

Year 6 student Toby Douglas has struggled with reading since year 1. In the classroom Toby was quiet and avoided attracting the teacher's attention while in the playground he was outgoing, loud and entertaining.

His mother, Tanya, tried private tutors, hearing tests, eye tests and speech therapy to improve Toby's literacy before discovering Multilit (Making Up Lost Time

In Literacy). Multilit is a program developed by researchers and educators at Macquarie University Special Education Centre.

It focuses on phonics, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension to improve the literacy level of below-average readers in year 1 or above.

Toby attended an intensive, three-hour Multilit course five days a week for two terms before cutting back to twice-a-week. Twenty weeks into the program his reading accuracy levels have improved by 40 per cent and his spelling grade has increased by 18 months.

The course is held at North Ryde.

For more information visit www.multilit.com or by phone 1300 559 919.