

The Word Whizzer! Reviews:

The Word Whizzer has been taken up widely throughout Australia and the UK, by teachers, psychologists, speech and language therapists and parents.

LDA Learning:

The Word Whizzer is an excellent resource for helping children with language acquisition and retention – skills that are vital for children to develop both academically and socially. The product is imaginative and well thought-out, backed up by sound research, and would be of benefit to many children.

Kendra Bell, Specialist Speech Pathologist, Western Australia

The Word Whizzer is an essential tool for teachers and parents who want to enrich and build solid vocabulary concepts to help children learn. The Word Whizzer is an easy to use tool that fills the gap between phonological awareness programs and vocabulary programs. I have used the Word Whizzer with children with word finding difficulties and those having difficulty learning to read and spell.

Sarah Purdie, Language Support Teacher, London, UK.

The Word Whizzer has been enthusiastically received by teachers and teaching assistants, who like the fact that it can be used both in a class, group or one to one context. I have used it around identified vocabulary and children like the concept of the spinner, rolling a dice and the fact it is colourful and has pictures. The 'Word Wheel' can be used for recording children's answers, so a good extension to oral work. It works well with word banks available using symbol software, helping children to embed their learning and make the essential semantic and phonological links. This is new to many class teachers, in particular the concept of a phonological link, so the Word Whizzer helps to support good teaching practice in terms of vocabulary learning.

Hilaire Lyon, Year Two Teacher, Western Australia:

The Word Whizzer has been just fantastic. The whole class loves using it and it really helps me address the huge range of learning abilities and styles. It's also taught me so much about all the different areas we need to consider when we look at learning new vocabulary. I think all schools should have them in their classrooms.

Fiona Stephenson, Speech and Language Therapist, SEN teacher and parent of a child with word finding difficulties, Western Australia:

The Word Whizzer has provided Lachlan with a combined approach to learning new vocabulary, organising his words better and increasing his efficiency at "getting the words out" (quote Lachie). The Word Whizzer has helped us identify which areas he needs help with and where his strengths lie. Using his phonological skills has made stronger connections to the semantic area, where he experiences most of his difficulties. This has had a very positive effect on other areas of literacy, such as spelling, reading and writing. His written work is more descriptive and so is his chat! The Word Whizzer has had a tremendous affect on all of these areas. So much so, that at the end of last semester, he was awarded the "Most Improved Student" at his school. He LOVES going and is a confident, keen learner who is very enquiring in ALL areas of the curriculum. The teacher says he is the one who "asks most of the questions" during discussion times and loves sharing his opinion on everything!

Sarah Mullan, Speech and Language Therapist, UK

The students find the Word Whizzer a fun and motivating way to learn new vocabulary and the skills to support them to retrieve a word. I have seen good progress in their vocabulary learning and retrieval skills through using the resource. I have also used the resource within a whole class setting, which worked really well and the teacher has since been using this as a way of pre-teaching vocabulary to her whole class.

I found the Word Whizzer extremely easy to use (I loved the Quick Start Guide!) and it was great to have something that I could take off my resource shelf that was ready to go and didn't involve hours devising yet another vocabulary / word retrieval game. I continue to find the games ideas invaluable for my therapy sessions and even more so for parents and school staff to use.

Ashton Craig, Private Speech Pathologist, Western Australia:

My experience with the Word Whizzer as a private Speech Pathologist has been very rewarding. I have used it both as a tool for within individual therapy sessions (including with children that have been diagnosed with autism), and also in small groups whilst working within schools. Teachers who have observed me using this resource have also purchased it, to include both in work with small groups of children with specialised needs, but also at a whole-class level. 100% of the feedback I've received from teachers is that it has been a very useful addition to their class resources! The Word Whizzer allowed me to focus on building the complexity of a child's vocabulary stores in a fun and exciting way that made them want to keep practicing with every consecutive therapy session. I can use it with any range of nouns, allowing me to change the task from very simple to quite complex, according to the children's needs. I would recommend this as a must-have resource for Teachers, Speech Pathologists, Education Assistants, and any parents who would like to improve their child's vocabulary.

Anne Robinson, Speech Pathologist, Queensland.

I have used Level 2 with a 9-yr old girl, who was very keen on the Word Wheel, eager to see where the spinner would stop. I thought the questions on the Word Whizzer were engaging & challenged my client's thinking in language terms.

Tiffany Yeo, Speech Pathologist, New South Wales.

The Word Whizzer has been a great tool to use with my school-aged clients. They find it fun to use and it makes therapy seem less like "work". It has been helpful in building a broader range of vocabulary and developing word retrieval skills.

Bobbie Hall, Speech Pathologist, Victoria.

The Word Whizzer is a great resource. It's quick and easy to set-up and explain and can be used in a variety of ways. The students love the spinner and I have used it in small group therapy sessions as well as in the classroom for our schools oral language program. Although it is aimed at using a variety of strategies to learn and remember new vocabulary, I have also used it to observe and practice student's phonological awareness skills and overall language abilities.

Jessica Vis, Speech Pathologist, Western Australia

I've found the Word Whizzer is great for providing a framework / structure when targeting semantic goals, and also helps clients to understand important aspects to include in their descriptions. I've been able to use it for simple objects up to more complex concepts such as 'occupations'. The kids seem to really enjoy using it too. It's also been really useful to have the 2 different Word Whizzer levels. Well done on creating such a fantastic, user-friendly resource.