

# Approaches to the Teaching of Indonesian Literacy in the Primary Classroom

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## **Abstract Heading, Arial 11 point, Bold**

*Literasi Anak Indonesia is an innovative project that was launched in 2011 to support Indonesian Literacy. The project provides a model for teaching and supporting literacy as a catalyst for change within the Indonesian education system, by introducing internationally recognized pedagogy on best teaching practices. This successful model of teaching literacy uses interactive children's literature and guided reading resources in Bahasa Indonesian to promote literacy development in Indonesian kindergarten and primary schools. Current methods of teaching literacy in government schools generally focus on more formalized practices which tend to use whole class approaches and text book learning. Our proposed workshop will focus on teaching methodology to support the development in children of the important life skills of critical thinking and problem solving through the use of quality literature. We will model some of the approaches to the teaching of literacy through interactive read-alouds, guided reading, and shared reading, where there will be opportunities to reflect on the value of literature that connects to children's lives and supports the development of life skills. This approach is already operating successfully in the teaching of the Indonesian Literacy within the Dyatmika bilingual Primary School in Bali, where this project Literasi Anak Indonesia is based. We believe this project has enormous potential for the teaching of early literacy in kindergarten and primary schools in Indonesia, so we look forward to sharing the programme with interested schools, teachers, and librarians who are seeking to enrich their Indonesian literacy curriculum.*

*The greatest need in introducing an enriched approach to the teaching of literacy through quality literature is to first produce the resources required for this approach. Presently, there are very limited resources in national schools, apart from textbooks, available in Bahasa Indonesian, the instructional language in schools. As a result there is little evidence of literacy development being taught using "real" books that connect to children's lives. Therefore, an important aim of this project is to support the development of class and school libraries by producing a context-based reading series and relevant literature. As a result, local illustrators, photographers, and writers have been working on this project to produce high quality books. To date we have produced 45 titles across 5 levels of reading at the early literacy stage, and are adding a further 3 levels of 24 titles to the series. Additionally, Big Books for interactive reading, teaching guides, student activity books, and assessments have been produced. All these resources will be shared during the workshop. We believe literacy is the foundation of education, and*

*Indonesian children deserve the best literature and reading opportunities that can be provided in their own language through the classrooms and school libraries.*

**Keywords:** Literacy, interactive, inquiry, resources, bahasa Indonesia

### **Biographical note**

#### **Aprile Denise, M. Ed.**

I am originally from New Zealand and have lived and worked in education in Indonesia for 30 years, both in international and national settings. I began working as the international Head of Early Years and Primary at Dyatmika School in 2008; I was also at the time completing my master's degree with a focus on language, literacy and bilingual education. The two worlds came together in the Literacy Project we launched with funding in 2011, where I had the opportunity to support our Indonesian teachers more fully to develop a comprehensive literacy programme for the kindergarten and primary school.

#### **Dra. Ni Ketut Ayu Sugati**

I am currently pursuing a career in a school that has a very strong vision and mission to improve education in order to create a better world. I am proud to have joined Dyatmika since the founding of the school in 1996 and in 2007 I was appointed as the national Head of Early Years and Primary School. In this role I have direct responsibility to supervise the Indonesian Children's Literacy program, where I never cease to encourage the literacy coordinator and also the teachers sitting on the Indonesian book committee of Literasi Anak Indonesia. I hope we can unite our thinking around the teaching paradigm for Indonesian literacy for the sake of our nation's children!

#### **Sri Utami, S. Pd., SD.**

I have been working at Dyatmika School since 1996 as a national teacher with early primary years. I have always been interested in developing innovative methods in my classroom, and creating resources to support literacy. In 2011 our school began the project Literasi Anak Indonesia and I was appointed to the position as a fulltime literacy coordinator. I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to jointly develop Indonesian language reading resources as well as sharing a more innovative approach to develop students' literacy skills through teacher training in national schools.