



# A Parent's Guide to Using IDL Literacy at Home



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Using IDL at home should be easy for pupils, and for their parents to assist them if necessary. Please find below guidance on how to get the most out of using IDL out of school:

### Getting Started:

Your child will have taken a simple reading and spelling assessment in schools to determine a starting point on IDL. This ensures that they are working at an appropriate level relative to their reading and spelling ability, and the programme is individually tailored to meet their needs

Your child's preferred background and text colours will have been chosen using the 'Colours' icon, with the help of their teacher. This area will probably be locked, as your child won't need to choose their screen/text colours each time they use the programme.



### Accessing IDL:

If you are using a computer or a laptop, login via <https://www.idlsgroup.com/> – IDL only works with the 'Google Chrome' browser.

If you're using an iPad or Android device, go to the App Store or Play Store and download the **IDL2 Mobile** app.

Please note that IDL2 requires a device with a minimum 2gb of RAM.

### Using IDL:

If your child has been asked to complete IDL lessons at home, it should be done in 15 minute sessions – **no longer**. Their login details will have been issued at school.

We recommend that children use headsets with a microphone when using IDL in school - this is for the recording element, when the words on screen are read and spoken back in the child's own voice.

This is perhaps not necessary at home, as most modern laptops/computers or iPad/Android devices have this facility built in - perfect for home use.

Children should go straight to the '**Literacy**' icon - this will take them directly to their own lesson plan.



If your child needs assistance, provide this, but guide them to answer the query themselves, just as a teacher would do. It is really important that you let them work through the programme by themselves, encouraging them to become independent learners - **definitely, don't do the work for them!**

In a lesson, a word will be heard and seen simultaneously (except in dictation lessons, when the words will just be heard) - the word should then be typed. When the word appears again, one or more letters will be starred out.

The Assistant icon in the lesson can be used to guide your child (You can turn this on or off at any time). The keyboard icon brings up an on screen keyboard and shows your child which letters they are typing. Your child then types the word, remembering the letters that were starred out. They can't move on to the next word, until the current one has been spelt correctly.

A lesson will not time out...there is no rush, just let your child work at their own pace.

At the end of each lesson your child will be praised for their efforts, then asked to read back what they have typed.

A child is not scored on the recording element of the programme - this function is purely to provide reading practise and complete a multi-sensory approach to learning. The child's reading is recorded and played back in their own voice - research suggests that if you hear information in your own voice, you are more likely to retain it.

Over time, your child's confidence and self-esteem should increase, and they will want to listen to themselves via the recording as they follow the words on screen.

Once a lesson has been completed, the next lesson will become available automatically, and your child will simply click on the lesson number presented to them, working through the program in a structured way.



There are five different lesson types: spelling, sentence, story, comprehension and dictation. Children will complete all of these types of lessons whilst working through the programme – they are generated automatically.



### Home Page Options

If you'd like to view other lessons, you can do this by clicking on the '**Literacy book**' icon. This shouldn't interfere with your child's structured lesson plan in the '**Literacy**' icon. If you can't access this area, it will have been locked - your child doesn't need to use it.



There are three optional icons on the student menu, which a child can access:

## Spelling book



Subject specific spelling exercises. Not part of the main programme, but a useful optional resource.

## ABC book



These lessons do not form part of the structured program. They are uppercase lessons.

## Typing book



These are keyboard exercises that will help with touch typing.

\*These icons only need to be accessed if your child's teacher has requested it.

## Progress:

The 'Progress' icon is usually locked in the student area, so that teachers may discuss progress with their pupil individually, using age/ability appropriate language.



Your child's progress will be checked during the course of the academic year, indicating their improvement in reading and spelling. Graphs and data showing your child's progress may be given/discussed with you at their teacher's discretion.

Progress is reported by achieving stars for each lesson completed. If five stars are awarded, it means a lesson has been completed without any mistakes.

Spelling   Comprehension   Story   Sentence   Dictation

Lesson D 1   Lesson D 1   Lesson D 1   Lesson D 1   Lesson D 1

5 stars   5 stars   3 stars   5 stars   (red line)

*This lesson has not been taken yet.*

Fewer stars may not necessarily indicate that your pupil is struggling. There are many reasons for mistakes when typing. It is ONLY there to indicate that closer supervision may be required in future.

5 stars - no mistakes  
4 stars - 2 mistakes  
3 stars - 4 mistakes  
2 stars - 6 mistakes  
1 star - 8 or more mistakes

One star will be lost for every two errors made, so four stars indicates two mistakes have been made, three stars four mistakes and so on...

### Exiting IDL:

IDL monitors when a child logs in and out of the system, enabling teachers to see how many lessons have been completed during a session, both in and out of school – make sure they log off via the 'Log out' icon.



Using IDL Literacy for a minimum of 60 minutes per week can improve your child's reading and spelling age by up to 11 months within a 26 hour period (Using for an hour a week for 26

weeks). This improvement may increase if more time is spent using the programme, but should only be accessed as recommended by IDL/school.

### **Getting Help**

The first point of contact for getting help in accessing the programme or buttons is your child's teacher or school.

Here at IDL we can help if you are having any problems using IDL.

We cannot give out any login details, nor adjust the child's placement.

### **IDL Contact Information**

Call us on 01524 580665 or email addresses Customer Service:

[customerservice@idlsgroup.com](mailto:customerservice@idlsgroup.com)

Please include your child's username, as this will help us easily identify your child's school and their IDL activities.