

Bringing Literacy to Life through Poetry, Music, and Movement

This highly practical workshop explores how literacy learning can be enriched through the arts by integrating poetry, music, and movement in primary classrooms. Aligned with the conference theme *Lighting the Way for Literacy* and a focus on *empowering voices*, the session demonstrates how creative, embodied approaches can amplify student voice, agency, and expression—particularly for learners who may struggle to access literacy through traditional text-based approaches alone.

The aim of the workshop is to support teachers to confidently use arts-integrated strategies to strengthen writing, oral language, collaboration, and comprehension. Participants will experience a shared creative process that mirrors effective classroom practice. Together, the group will write a short, accessible poem using clear structure and simple language. This poem will then be transformed into a musical rhythm or beat and developed further into a 16-beat movement sequence. No prior experience in music or dance is required; all activities are inclusive, low-risk, and adaptable across year levels.

As the session progresses, participants will explore how elements of music and dance—such as rhythm, tempo, levels, shape, and dynamics—can be manipulated and refined. These experiences are explicitly linked to literacy learning, illustrating how movement and sound can support sequencing, vocabulary development, comprehension, and expressive language. The workshop highlights how multimodal approaches can empower student voices by providing multiple ways to create, interpret, and communicate meaning.

Discussion and reflection are embedded throughout, with opportunities to consider how these approaches support diverse learners and foster confidence, collaboration, and belonging. Participants will explore practical ways to adapt activities for different contexts, abilities, and learning needs.

By the end of the workshop, participants will leave with a clear, repeatable process linking poetry, music, and movement; increased confidence using arts-based strategies in literacy teaching; and a set of classroom-ready activities designed to empower student voice and enrich literacy practice.