

Phonics for SEN Training Information

A comprehensive training package that is flexible and sustainable, offering schools the opportunity to deliver training in a way that best suits their needs.

Training Overview

- Live Introductory twilight Zoom session with Ann Sullivan or pre-recorded video presentation (if preferred)
- Course of 9 Units:
 - Video presentations
 - Hands-on and On-Screen Activities
 - Course Handbook
 - Discussions led by School Lead

Plus - Teaching Note Videos

Outline of the Content

Introduction – Phonics, The Science of Reading and Pupils with SEND

Timing: 1 hr, including discussion time

When we consider how to teach reading, spelling and writing, the key question we should be asking is, “Why do we do it like that?” The answer should be that there is research-based evidence that this is the best way to do it. Ann presents an overview of key findings from research in the fields of education, psychology and neuroscience and their implications for programme design and hence instruction, in relation to pupils with SEND.

Unit 1 – An Overview of Phonics

Timing: 15 mins

Phonics has a reputation for being complicated, but in reality, it is quite straightforward. Ann presents an overview of the concepts, skills and knowledge related to the English alphabetic code and what pupils need to learn to be able to manage and use written language effectively. This presentation provides the foundation for the work ahead.

Unit 2 – Teaching Pupils with Complex Needs – Practical Strategies

Timing: 1½ hr

This section explores strategies to enable access to the programme for all pupils, including those with a range of severe and complex needs.

Unit 3 – Teaching Blending

Timing: 1½ hr

Blending is an important part of reading, but how should we teach it? Ann explores what it is and the best way to teach it to learners with SEND.

Unit 4 – Teaching Segmenting and Phoneme Manipulation

Timing: 45 mins

Segmenting is an important key to spelling but how should we teach it? Ann explores how to scaffold your pupils’ experience and practice of segmenting to work towards oral segmenting for spelling. We then take time to look at phoneme manipulation.

Unit 5 – Teaching the Alphabetic Code

Timing: 1½ hr

This unit focuses on how the programme teaches the alphabetic code to pupils, gradually developing their ‘cognitive map’ (or schema) of the code.

Unit 6 – Listening to Pupils Read

Timing: 1 hr

Listening to a pupil read out loud is easy, right? Actually, it’s highly skilled and nuanced. Ann presents a pragmatic approach to listening to readers and unpicks the common errors that pupils make and how to support them to correct them.

Unit 7 – Assessment, Planning and Delivery

Timing: 45 mins

Ann looks at individual pupil assessment to baseline pupils and make informed decisions about their starting point within the programme. She also looks at how to structure lessons and use the simple weekly planning format included in the programme.

Unit 8 – Managing Multisyllable Words

Timing: 45 mins

As pupils' reading and spelling develops, they need to learn how to manage longer and more complex multisyllable words. Being able to read and spell multisyllable words involves extending the blending for reading and segmenting for spelling strategies that the pupils learnt when working through books 1-6.

Unit 9 – Fidelity: What Not to Teach and Why

Timing: 45 mins

In the presentations so far, there have been glimpses of strategies and approaches that are not supported by the Science of Reading which are still used when teaching pupils to read and spell. This section takes the time to explore them all (and more), so that teachers can appreciate the need for fidelity to the programme and focus on strategies that are effective.

Teaching Notes

The teaching note videos are short videos that can be viewed as the need arises. They include:

- **Phonics for SEN – Information, Scope and Sequence**
- **Articulating the Sounds**
- **Learning Names**
- **Starting to Work with Older Readers**
- **The Reading and Spelling Strategies Quick View**

Preparation in Advance of the Training

Lead Teacher: The lead teacher watches all the video presentations and reads all the accompanying materials prior to the training to become familiar with the content. The lead teacher then meets with Ann (online) as many times as required (but at least once) to ensure they have a good understanding of the materials and are confident to facilitate delivery of the training and lead discussions with their staff.

Evaluation

An Evaluation Form is provided for each participant. This contains a pre- and post-training confidence rating, a rating of each unit of the training and an opportunity to provide individual feedback. This gives you a mechanism for judging the impact of the training sessions.

Post Training

After the training you will receive:

- regular updates from Phonics for SEN about the programme,
- copies of new teaching resources or materials produced by Phonics for SEN,
- information relevant to teaching phonics nationally.

The training was reviewed and updated in April 2024 and this new version 3.0 is offered free of charge to schools who have previously accessed training.

Contact Information

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