Transforming Primary QTS

LINKED TO THE 2012 TEACHERS' STANDARDS

Teaching Systematic Synthetic Phonics

Audit & Test

David Waugh
Ruth Harrison-Palmer

Teaching Systematic Synthetic Phonics: Audit and Test

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David Waugh and Ruth Harrison-Palmer

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About the authors and series editor

The authors

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Introduction

In England, the Teachers' Standards require that teachers 'demonstrate good subject and curriculum knowledge' and 'if teaching early reading, demonstrate a clear understanding of systematic synthetic phonics' (DfE, 2012: 7).

This book is designed to help you to identify aspects of systematic synthetic phonics which you already understand as well as those which you will need to explore further.

How to use this book

Each chapter asks you to define key terminology for an aspect of phonics teaching and learning. This is followed by a series of questions and activities. Each chapter also includes the answers (or in some cases, suggested answers) to the audits together with brief explanations. Although it can be used without it, the book is linked closely to another text: Jolliffe *et al*. (2012) *Teaching Systematic Synthetic Phonics in Primary Schools*. The chapters in the two books are matched, so that you can read about the aspects in the audits in more detail by reading Jolliffe *et al*.

At the end of the book, you will find a longer audit, which you should attempt once you have worked through the audits in the chapters. But first, try the initial audit below to see how much you know already and some of the things which you will need to find out more about.

Initial audit

You will find answers to the initial audit at the end of the book in Appendix 1.

What does word recognition refer to in the Simple View of Reading?
What does language comprehension refer to in the Simple View of Reading?
What is a phoneme?

What is a grapheme?
How many phonemes do you think there are in English?
What is blending?
What is segmenting?
How many vowel sounds do you think there are?
How many consonant sounds?
What is encoding?
What is decoding?
How many phonemes are there in each of these? cat book flat splash crack blend phonics

What else you need to do

At the end of each chapter you will find some suggested websites which will help you to find out more or will provide examples and activities. You will also find

recommended reading and suggestions as to what you might do next to develop your understanding.

We hope you will find this book not only helps you to check on your knowledge and understanding of systematic synthetic phonics, but also provides a useful starting point for further exploration of this important aspect of primary education.

David Waugh

Ruth Harrison-Palmer

August 2013

References

DfE (2012, revised June 2013) *Teachers' Standards* (available at **https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/208682/Teachers__Standards_2013.pdf**).

Jolliffe, W. and Waugh, D. with Carss, A. (2012) *Teaching Systematic Synthetic Phonics in Primary Schools*. London: Learning Matters/SAGE.

1 Discriminating sounds and phonemes

Learning outcomes

This chapter will help you to audit your:

- understanding of key terminology;
- appreciation of the difficulties faced by adults and advanced readers in being able to discriminate phonemes and ways of overcoming them;
- understanding of different methods of checking phonemic awareness.

Work through each section below, responding to each question or task. When you have completed each section, you can read the answers at the end of the chapter. At the end of this chapter you can also find support for further reading and study related to discriminating sounds and phonemes.

Section 1: key terminology for discriminating sounds and phonemes

It is important that you understand the terms below before you move on to the next activity. Provide a definition of each and check your definitions against those given later in this chapter:

- phonemes
- graphemes
- phonological awareness
- phonemic awareness
- segmentation and blending
- adjacent consonants

Section 2: segmenting words

Test your knowledge by trying to work out the number of phonemes in the words below. Remember that there are always the same number of phonemes as graphemes, as a grapheme can be any number of letters that represent that phoneme.