Session 3 Notes

Weak Decoding and Blending

Overview
Some students will struggle to develop their reading because decoding and blending are too challenging for them to practise. As a result, they remain locked in a low level of attainment.

The easiest solution is to help them get the daily practice they need with the scaffolding provided by trainertext. Once they begin to break through, they will need the trainertext pictophones less and less.

Intervention Journey
1. The student struggles to practise decoding and blending.
2. Reading practice becomes easier and so they get it done.
3. We use trainertext to make that daily practice easy.

Trainertext

Overview
A pictophone is an image that represents a phoneme. The onset sound of each image is the phoneme being represented (for instance, the apple represents the /a/ phoneme). This makes the phonemes easier for the students to manipulate and remember.

Trainertext is what we call words with the pictophones floating above the letters. They provide a visual aid to scaffold the decoding of words for the learner. Over time, the brain maps the letter to sound correspondences in the brain and the trainertext can be taken away.

Segment-Reblend Technique

Overview
Use this technique with any learners who struggle to blend phonemes into words.

Process
1. The student chooses a word
2. The student then segments it into phonemes
3. The student then blends the phonemes again

The Three Pillars of Good Practice

1. Decode and blend every word accurately
2. Reread each phrase until fluent
3. Build strong internal vocalisation

Tasks for the Week

- Print off the pictophone reference sheet.
- Work through the sheet of conundrums to familiarise yourself with the pictophones.
- Introduce a couple of students with poor decoding skills to the pictophones. Cut the sheet into cards and play some games creating words with the different images as pictophones.
- Then see how they get on with the trainertext book (the link is included in the email we sent to you).
- Report back on what you have observed.