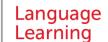
"First steps in Fonix, phonicks, phonics..." Amanda Cant

26/03/2015

Language Learning







Introduction

Name: Josie Wood

Age: 27

Nationality: GB

Job: Primary School Teacher

Sector: State

Pupils: 5-6 year olds

Graduated: 2010

Experience: 4 years

Phonics: 30 minutes daily

Class size: approx 30

Conversation

- * As a pupil, Josie didn't learn to read and write using phonics.
- * With regard to phonics, she had basic teacher training. There was very little practical guidance.
- * She has learnt how to use phonics in the classroom whilst teaching. This is how she has gained her experience.
- * She was very nervous to start with, but feels more confident after four years of teaching.

Josie expressed initial nervousness due to:

- * A lack of preparation during her teacher training.
- * Phonics being an unfamiliar activity area.
- * The fact that she had no personal experience of phonics when she was a young child.
- * The fact that, in her school, phonics is an isolated subject area, which is taught separately from other subject areas.

Difficulties Josie also highlighted include:

- * Children not realising the purpose of the phonics activites.
- * Children not making the connection between phonics and learning to read and write.

Can you identify with Josie's experience?

1)Did you learn to read and write using phonics?	Yes	No
2) Was how to teach phonics covered in your teacher training?	Yes	No
3) Are phonics activities unfamiliar to you?	Yes	No
4) Are you nervous of teaching phonics?	Yes	No

Additional areas of difficulty for the teaching of phonics:

- * Phonics look and seem 'abstract' and 'artificial'
- * My country uses a different alphabet system
- * My native language has different phonemes from English
- * I feel self conscious about my own accent

An example of how phonics, rather than the alphabet feed into spelling patterns...

Any combination of these words is correct:

road rode rowed Rhodes

An example of how these phonemes (spoken) and graphemes (written) forms can be used to build up reading and writing skills

r oa d	rode	r ow e d	Rh odes
b oa t	cope	cr ow	rh yme
c oa t	bone	thr ow	rh ubarb



