Successful Strategies for Beginning Readers with Down Syndrome

GOOD TO GREAT: ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PEOPLE WITH DOWN SYNDROME

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Schedule

• Intro Video
• The Early Foundations Program
• Reinforcement & Resources
DSRF Videos

- www.dsrf.org/programs-&-resources/our-videos/

- Reading Video 1: Successful Strategies for Beginning Readers with Down Syndrome

The Early Foundations Reading Program
Multi-Sensory Learning

- Visual
- Auditory
- Verbal
- Kinetic
- Tactile

Visual Strengths

- Children with Down Syndrome can have weak auditory task comprehension, often due to auditory short-term memory deficits and difficulty with auditory processing.
- Visual-motor skills are a strength.
- Visual strategies often include kinetic, tactile, auditory and verbal learning styles too.
Visual Strategies

- Using visual strategies....
  - Are more concrete than auditory information
  - Builds receptive language
  - Supports comprehension and generalization

What are some Visual Strategies?

- Flashcards
- Concrete Objects
- Strategies
- Apps
- Picture Symbols
- Pictures
- Sign Language
### Strength-Based Alternative

- Traditional phonics based literacy is a “bottom-up” approach
  - Individual phonemes then whole words
  - “C” + “A” + “T” = CAT

- Strength based alternative is a “top-down” approach
  - Whole words first, then individual phonemes
  - CAT = “C” + “A” + “T”

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### Part One

#### Sight Words
Match, Select, Name

- **Match** – match a word to a word on stationary grid

- **Select** – select word from array

- **Name** – student names or signs the word

Match, Select, Name

- **Video**

- **Tips** – keep auditory short, errorless learning and fast pace

- **Demonstration**
Match, Select, Name Recap

Motivating
Individualized
Errorless
Multisensory
Strengths

Practice Time!
Personalized Books

- Motivating!
- Keep it simple, keep it repetitive
- Use photos or pictures
- Word or iPad

Read and Do Activities

- Concrete examples, real-life situations
- Responsive teaching, follow the child’s lead
- Builds receptive language, helps reading!
Examples

- Read and do/play examples...
- We make cookies
- Picnic
- Up and Down
- Grocery Store
- Get Dressed
- I Pick Up

Reinforcement Games

- Select and mail
- Read spin throw
- Fly swatter
- Bowling
- Find and tape to wall
Sight Word Apps

- Special Words
- BitsBoard
- Fry Words
- Futaba
- Word Family
- Phonics Genius
- Pictello

Sign Language

- Use sign for sight words
- Use sign for letter names and sounds
- Video reference – http://www.signingsavvy.com/
Sight Word Plan

Week One
- Introduction to new book
- 2, 4, 6 new sight words

Week Two
- Review book
- 2, 4, 6 new sight words from the same book

Week Three
- Review all sight word and book
- New high frequency words

Week Four
- New book with same words
- Review all words

Part Two
Letter Sounds
Jolly Phonics

Letter Names and Sounds

- **Ideas for letter names and sounds**
  - Trace letters, write them in the sky, pointing or selecting with a special pointer or witchy finger
  - Make letters – glue and grains or stencil and glitter
  - Jolly phonics
  - Select and mail ...or... find and put in a container
  - I spy games
Letter Names and Sounds Apps

- Starfall
- Letter school
- Fish School
- Word Wagon
- Interactive Alphabet
- SuperWhy

Extension Activities

Where to go after letters/sounds?

- Digraphs – new sounds (wh, th, ch, sh)
- Word families – at, an, ap, ab, etc.
  - Blends – bl, sl, cr, gl, etc.
Part Three

Phonological Awareness Activities

An individual’s awareness of the sound structure of words

Auditory Activities

- Phonological Awareness Activities
  - Sound Discrimination – Same and Different
  - Initial Sounds – Tell me, Mail box, I hear with my little ear
  - Syllable segmentation – Bee, Bee, Bumble Bee, Clap it out
  - Phoneme identification – Word stretching
Auditory Activities Cont...

- Auditory memory activities

- Single and multiple instructions
  - Washing machine
  - Fruit salad
  - Pizza
  - Copy Cat

Tips to Help Auditory Memory
Auditory Apps

- Vocal Gym – same and different
- Peek a Boo Barn – what animal do you hear?
- Bla Bla Bla – too loud, too quiet
- Reading Skill – individual phonemes, blending
- ABC Magic – beginning sounds
- Fun with Directions – auditory memory
- Picture the Sentence – auditory memory
- Making cookies, cakes – auditory directions
- Pocket Charts - rhyming

Part Four

Reading Comprehension
Reading Comprehension

- Shared reading with picture books
- Ask “wh” questions
- Connect to real life examples

What now?

Implementation
In therapy

- General tips
- Manage the environment
- Fast, fun and frequent
- Use a visual schedule
- Tailor to individual interests
- 45 minutes

DSRF Sessions

- Session Log
At school

- General tips
- Manage the environment
- Use of visual schedule
- Reading A-Z books with sight words
- Personal book bin
- Short individual sight word sessions
- Send home materials for practice
- Participation in class activities with adaptations

Reinforcement Sessions

- Sight Words and Book Reading
- Letters
- Phonological Awareness
- Concepts of Print
At home

- General tips
- Daily shared reading
- Read and Do personal books ex. We make cookies, I set the table
- Fast and fun
- Display sight words
- Jolly Phonics – Youtube
- Apps for reinforcement and with an adult

When in Doubt...

- Positive reinforcement – praise and preferred activities
- Sing!
- Do something physical
- Add a prop ex. A microphone
- Put something inside something ex. Words into a box, letters into a basket

- Mantra:
- Reset, repeat, repeat, repeat!
Findings

- Early intervention works
- Repetition is important
- Phonological awareness is trainable
- Sight words help language
- Sign language makes everything easier and more fun!

Templates

Coming soon...
Questions

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