

Reviews - Phonics Resources for Older Learners (Bundle)

I work in an FE college, teaching groups of Entry Level Literacy students, progressing from Entry Level 1 to Entry Level 3.

These two books, Phonics Stories for Older Learners and the accompanying book, Phonics Resources for Older Learners have been invaluable to me and other Literacy and ESOL practitioners.

All the pages are easily photocopied and provide a quick and effective method of teaching lower levels, something that is worth its weight in gold to busy teachers. The stories correspond to the accompanying skills based worksheets and systematically build up the learners' understanding of phonemes, graphemes and syntax.

With these books it is possible to plan an entire lesson in stages built around one target sound. There is also more than one level of stories and resources which is a great help in differentiating effectively for mixed-level groups at word, sentence and text level.

I particularly like the dictation pages that learners can do in pairs, allowing them to work together to develop their reading, writing, speaking, listening and proof-reading skills. Activities like this still correspond to a target sound and so fit seamlessly into the rest of the lesson.

During a recent Ofsted inspection it was mentioned that even with these lower levels that teachers should be incorporating more student-focused activities. The dictation in particular allows the teachers to stand back and let the students peer correct without too much teacher involvement.

All in all I would recommend these books to any professional teaching in this sector as a fantastic and varied way to help students build a solid foundation from which to advance to higher levels.

Beverley Hill (5 Jan 2015)

I have used these fabulous books to help support a range of dyslexic learners, from both top end Primary and Secondary schools, who have gaps in their phonic knowledge. The short punchy stories focus on real life situations which capture the interest of the pupils without patronising them. The accompanying support activities really help reinforce learning and ensure new knowledge is retained. Would definitely recommend.

Drew Wilson (5 Jun 2014)

I teach at a learning centre with a wide range of learners, including some adults and older teenagers. These books have proved an invaluable resource for my older learners as they offer age appropriate stories and activities, coupled with a very well structured phonic progression. Even my most struggling learners have been able to experience success as the phonic progression in this series is so secure and there is no need for them to guess at words. They really are truly decodeable even at the most early levels. The instructions included in the books are so clear that the books can easily be used by teachers and tutors who may not themselves have a solid grounding in phonics. I can highly recommend both the stories and support activities for both adults and teenagers.

Clair Wilson (30 Nov 2017)