

SEN Teaching SRS since 2005

I came across the Sound Reading System, through the charity, Our Right to Read, in October 2005 and did the five day course in Oxford with Fiona Nevola. I was lucky enough to be able to practise almost straight away at my local primary school, Christ Church Primary in Chelsea, on a voluntary basis. The school is an excellent school (Ofsted awarded outstanding) and as part of its synthetic phonics programme, it invited Fiona Nevola to do an "inset" day. Following this training day three teachers, two class teachers (Reception and Year 1) and one Special Educational Needs teacher, went to Oxford to do the training and have now brought the system into the classroom. The parents and teaching assistants are very much involved and the ***SEN teacher said she felt that with the Sound Reading System she could now teach anyone to read. I feel this too.***

I work, one to one, with children at Christ Church and from other schools, who need to "catch up". They range from 6 to 13 years old.

From my experience I think these children have got left behind for several reasons: they may have been able to memorise words and then find they have difficulty reading when they get to the age of about 7: they may have got "sight" words confused and developed a habit of guessing what they are reading. One or two children I have taught have had difficulty hearing an individual sound and some, because they learn at a different pace from their peers or feel pressure from parents, have lost confidence and have built a resistance to reading.

With the Sound Reading System these difficulties are overcome through a carefully planned sequence of structured lessons designed to give the learner (and the teacher) confidence through listening for the sounds represented by letters or spellings, sorting and spotting them, building words, and reading and writing, using visual, auditory and kinaesthetic ways to learn. With the Sound Reading System children and adults alike are fascinated and pleased by the rapid progress they make.

A thirteen year old who came to me with a reading age of 6 years and 7 months achieved a reading age of 12 years and 3 months after 11 lessons in three months (tested by Bloomfield, London). I have started to teach a seven year old with a chromosome abnormality, Alfi's syndrome, who, with the help of her teaching assistant, is beginning to read a few words. I am teaching a 9 year old child diagnosed by the Dyslexia Institute with moderate to severe dyslexia. He is making progress and enjoying his lessons, not guessing and gaining in confidence.

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