

Using SRS in a Young Offenders Institution: Case Studies

WARREN HILL HMP-YOI

In April 2007 a number of staff were trained to deliver the **Sound Reading System** (SRS) In May 2007 the SENCo, Liz Lansdowne, ran a pilot.

16 Young People (YPs) received an average of 16 sessions of approximately 40 minutes three times per week in the period May - August 2007.

The average improvement in reading age ranged from 0 - 25 months with the mode being in excess of 10 months.

Following a review of Learning Support Assistant (LSA) deployment in January, a group was set up for 24 YPs. These YPs receive support in small classes for Literacy and Numeracy and they also access the OSRS for 30 minutes every day.

Of the 76 YPs receiving support on the OSRS from January to June 2008 the improvement in reading age ranged from 1 month - 35 months with the mode being in excess of 12 months. Spelling also improved , the range being 1 month - 25 months with the mode being in excess of 3 months.

Research also revealed that:

- 65% of YPs progressed at least one level in Literacy or Numeracy in the period January - March 2008 compared to 53% in the previous quarter
- Student Perception of Course (SPOC) results for July 2008 showed that 82% of YPs felt that the course has helped them to become more confident - a 32% increase since the introduction of OSRS
- SPOC results for July 2008 showed that 91% felt that the course would help them gain employment on release.

Case Study 1

For the purpose of this case study the YP will be referred to as AB.

AB is 15 years old. He had a disrupted history of education and serious substance misuse issues. He was statemented for dyslexia in year 5 of primary school.

AB had his first OSRS session on 6/8/07. His reading age was assessed at 9:0 - 10:1 and his spelling age was assessed as 6:4. AB had a reading age markedly higher than his spelling age. AB was largely self taught and the OSRS diagnostic indicated that AB had little understanding of the sound symbol correspondence, segmenting or blending.

AB received 30 sessions of OSRS over a 3 month period. We concentrated mainly on spelling. AB started right from the beginning in order to establish the basics of the code. We also practised reading at a higher level.

AB was released on 8/11/07. He was retested prior to his release and his reading age had improved by 20 months to 10:8 - 11:9 His spelling had improved by 55 months to 11:1 which corresponded with his reading age.

Case Study 2

For the purpose of this case study the YP will be referred to as BC.

BC is 17 years old. He is from a travelling background. BC had a low dyslexia indicator score. BC had his first OSRS session on 28/01/08 and he had a reading age of 8:6 - 9:7 and a spelling age of 7:7.

He had very little understanding of sound symbol correspondence and was unable to segment and blend. However, he was keen to learn and worked hard starting with foundation 11 and the principles of OSRS.

He progressed quickly and his confidence increased. By 22/8/08 BC's reading age was 10:5 - 11:6 and he had a spelling age of 9:4.

Case Study 3

For the purpose of this case study the YP will be referred to as CD

CD is 17 years old and he has had very little formal education since he was 7 years old. He had a high dyslexia indicator score. CD had his first session of OSRS on 17/3/08.

His reading age was <6 and his spelling age was 6:5.

CD understood the way the system worked very quickly and after a short time CD showed a continuous commitment to the course.

CD was released on 23.5.08. He had received 31 sessions of OSRS and his reading age had improved by 2 years 11 months and his spelling age by 1:1 years.

If you need anything further please email me.elizabeth.lansdowne@hmps.gsi.gov.uk