

# Road English Hub Newsletter

April 2023

## A note from our Strategic Lead...

Welcome to our April newsletter. As we move into the summer term our focus turns to the phonics screening check. Here at Roade English Hub we have lots of top tips for you to help you to ensure your pupils make the best possible progress between now and the check. We also have lots of advice for conducting the test to maximise outcomes. Do have a look at the short article in this newsletter and on our social media. Also don't forget that if you would like a chat with me or one of the team please do contact us. We are here to help all schools, even if you haven't contacted us before.

Jodie Matthews  
Strategic Lead



## Top Tips for a Reading Corner

- Make the reading space about the books
- Choose presentable books (not tatty old copies)
- Display them carefully, forward facing and in themes/collections
- Recall the advice from the reading framework which states: "Time might therefore be better spent on selecting, displaying and promoting the books in the book corner than on decorating it."
- Book spaces need to invite children but plants, lights and structures are not necessarily needed.
- Highlight books that you have already read to them- these are likely to be selected by the children first
- Let children borrow the books from the book corner
- Ensure there is a reading space for every child
- Consider how to display or represent pupil voice

## What to expect during an Audit

Once a school has made initial contact with the Hub, one of the first steps is that each school receives an audit from one of our auditors. An auditor from the Hub will make direct contact with the school, based on the self-referral form, arrange a date and include instructions of how to complete the self-evaluation on the audit form. The audit itself takes the form of different sections, all aimed towards an area of phonics, early reading and language and communication. E.g. teaching an SSP with fidelity, making a strong start in reception, progression with decodable books and building a team of expert teachers in the field of phonics. The auditor will discuss each element of the audit document, making notes and asking questions about the phonics provision in the school – they will also provide, where appropriate, feedback and ideas. During the audit the auditor will: ask to see the phonics being taught across EYFS and KS1, look at the selection of books the school has for their SSP programme and may ask to see the school library. Once the audit is complete the auditor will write a report and leading on from this the school may get further support from a Literacy Specialist and even become one of our partner schools.

Gabriela Neal-Gonzalez  
Hub Auditor



**We are a friendly bunch. Why not get in touch with us and see what we can offer your school. We still have capacity for free audits, funding and training for this academic year. All you need to do is fill out a self referral form which is on our website.**



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## Preparing For the Phonics Screening Check...

It's important to start preparing for the PSC now to ensure that your pupils are ready for the check but also to make sure they have made the most possible progress in reading during their time in EYFS and in Year 1. Check out our list below to see some ways that you can ensure you and the children are prepared. It's also a great idea to attend any training or meetings that your schools phonics scheme is offering. See dates across.

- Complete practice PSC papers throughout the year
  - Access past phonics screening checks: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-practice-materials>
  - Use these to help teacher judgement or to practice methods for decoding unfamiliar words
  - Add a 'password' onto your door so pupils must decode, read and whisper the word before leaving the classroom
  - Analyse assessment data to identify gaps and provide extra daily practice accordingly
  - Get caregivers on board! If children need further support, set up a 1-1 meeting and explain how they can support at home
  - Seat your target children at the front of your phonics lessons
  - Expose pupils to pseudo/nonsense/alien words as part of daily practice e.g. straight after the register, when lining up, after story time... Little and often is the key to success
  - Encourage children to identify digraphs/trigraphs/special friends first then say each sound aloud before blending to read the entire word
  - Attend one of our Phonics Screening Check events absolutely free
  - Look out for upcoming webinars from your SSP provider
  - Recap common areas children struggle with each year - split digraphs, 3 letter consonant blends, pseudo/alien words, longer words
1. scr words - scrap, scrape, scream, script, scratch, screech
  2. str words - strong, street, strike, struck, string, stripe
  3. spr words - spring, sprite, sprinter, sprinkle, spread, sprout
  4. spl words - splash, splinter, splendor, splitting, splice, splatter
- Top Tips for Administering the PSC - Sit in a quiet but familiar place, use a familiar adult, allow breaks if needed, be positive and smiley

**Dates for some SSP Phonics Screening Check training. Book directly with your provider.**

- FFT Success For All Phonics - 18 April 2023
- Sounds Discovery - Module 7 available on the e-learning training
- Twinkle - dates in May TBC
- Read Write Inc - 3 May 2023, Loughborough, £160 per person + VAT
- Monster Phonics - Included in Level 4 training at a time convenient for the school - £300
- Essential Letters and Sounds - 1 to 1 sessions can be booked directly at a time convenient for the school
- Little Wandle - TBC

### What's coming up at the Hub

19th April 2023 - Early Language Development - Session 1

20th April 2023 - Developing the Reading Environment

2nd May 2023 - ECT Session - Preparing for the Phonics Screening Check

10th May 2023 - Early Language Development - Session 2

11th May 2023 - Developing Fluency

24th May 2023 - Early Language Development - Session 3

14th June 2023 - Early Language Development - Session 4

19th June 2023 - Free Phonics and Early Reading Training

5th July 2023 - Early Language Development - Session 5

19th July 2023 - Early Language Development - Session 6

Are you looking to introduce a reading spine in your school? Why not have a look at the one that our Hub Lead has created. You can find it on our website along with lots of other helpful resources.



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