

MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER

English Hub

ROADE ENGLISH HUB



FREE Online Events COMING UP...

8th May 9.30am - Reading for Pleasure with Ruth Baker-Leask.
In person, Leicester venue.

To book, visit our website and click on the events section.

We are taking advanced booking for next year for the following courses...

Transforming Your Schools Reading Culture

Early Language Development

Reading Ambition For All

Places on these very popular courses are strictly limited so don't delay in contacting us. Please be aware that these courses have multiple sessions across the year and schools are required to commit to attending each session.

SAVE THE DATE

Our annual conference will be on 26th March, 9am, at the Hilton Hotel Northampton

Hub News - Jodie Matthews , Strategic Lead



Spreading the word is probably the hardest thing that we have to do at Roade English Hub. Unbelievably, even after 5 years of supporting schools and handing out funding, there are still thousands of schools that haven't engaged with English Hubs, and hundreds in our area of Northants, Luton, and Leicestershire that haven't been in touch with us. It's hard to know why! Some schools tell us they have never heard of us before, some say they were nervous because they thought we were like Ofsted by making judgments and some say they thought that the support and funding came with conditions. It's so important that schools know what it is we do because thousands of schools across the country are missing out on funding, support and training.

Recently we have started a blog, to try to get the word out and explain more about what we do. If you haven't seen it then you can access it through our website. We have also tried to up our social media game. If you are a key partner, a local authority representative, an academy trust leader, a teaching school, a maths/behaviour/ Early Years/ Computing Hub or any other key partner with access to schools, please spread the word. Unlike other organisations, we hold DFE funding that must be given directly to schools and all the support we offer to schools is completely free. Let's work together to ensure that the thousands of schools that haven't engaged with English Hubs yet don't miss out!

Did You Know?

Since 2019, Roade English Hub have:

- Supported **78** Partner Schools
- Have supported **379** schools with an audit and/or funding
- Hosted **146 free training events**
- **4726** people have attended our free training events
- Received **100%** Good/ Outstanding feedback

Did you know that the team at Roade English Hub speak regularly at events. We are always happy to attend your event and are delighted to offer key notes on any aspect of phonics, reading for pleasure or early language development. Just get in touch.



Ensuring a Strong Start in Reception



I'm Gill Wilcox and I've been a Literacy Specialist for 5 years working at the English Hub. I'm also an Assistant Headteacher, English Lead and EYFS/KS1 teacher. For many years I was an early years teacher and now still lead our EY setting so I know first hand how important it is to get a really strong start in Reception, particularly for those children who come to school with limited language and knowledge of books or stories.

1. Don't hesitate to start straight away, even if you are still getting to know your class. The first few weeks can feel quite busy in the reception classroom. The end of the day arrives and you wonder how time flew by so fast. However, phonic lessons are a good learning routine to get embedded from as early as possible.
2. 5 minutes is better than 0 minutes. Some children struggle to stay in the room, let alone stay cross legged on the carpet. In the first two weeks, aim for 10 minutes, but take any minutes! It is also fine to do 2 shorter sessions in those first few weeks of 5 minutes each.
3. Overtly teach oral blending. This would be my priority. Children need to hear the individual sounds in words and how they fit together. Repeated practise through the day is key to getting a good start to blending.
4. Get parents on board while they feel particularly invested. Keep regular contact with your families to show them how to pronounce sounds, orally blend, and hear initial sounds in words.
5. Rhymes, rhymes and more rhymes! This is so powerful to help children with sound discrimination. Plus, we all feel a little happier when we sing! The English Hub have a list of recommended rhymes on the website.

Reading Success For All

Next Academic year we are delighted to be able to offer a new training course, which we think will be extremely popular. The course will be 6 sessions across the year and like the other extended courses we run there will be reading and gap tasks between sessions. This course will be focussed on the research around supporting all children to read including those with complex needs and disabilities. The course content has been compiled by national leading experts and included practical strategies to use in your school as well as covering the research. This is a national course, DFE accredited, and it will be offered at all English Hubs although places will be limited. We are extremely excited to be running this and have thoroughly enjoyed our training. If you are interested please contact us as our waiting list is already open.

Exciting Events

Next academic year we have multiple exciting training events booked in. Our 2024/25 brochure will be emailed out to you soon so please have a browse and book up! We have secured many fantastic speakers including Teresa Cremin, Christopher Such, Jean Gross!

Book PR - Erin King Literacy Specialist

Take a look at these marvellous books recommended by Literacy Specialist and Auditor Erin. They would be great additions to any book corner or school library.



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