

Phonics

The **5 key considerations** for effective phonics instruction are...

- 1 **Explicit and Systematic** – Be intentional with a clear scope and sequence covering all of the 44 English speech sounds and how they correspond to graphemes. Steer clear from just implicit or incidental phonics, also known as embedded phonics. This instruction potentially leaves many gaps in phonic knowledge.
- 2 **Synthetic** – This means part to whole. Put phonics knowledge together to blend and segment words. Too often phonics is learnt in isolation and then students do some artwork or picture colouring in rather than using this phonics knowledge in word contexts. Word blending and segmenting daily is crucial for success.
- 3 **Simple to Complex** – Start with the most common consonants and short vowels and then proceed to less common consonant, long vowels, r controlled vowels and other vowels. Also, start with the most common graphemes for these sounds and then move to more complex spelling. Simple to complex also applies to word structure. Starting with CVVC, then move to CVC, CCVC/CVCC and then multisyllabic words.
- 4 **Cumulative** – Phonics needs to be practiced daily adding new knowledge to known knowledge and decodable books should be used during this time.
- 5 **Integrated** – Phonics should not sit in isolation in a literacy program. Reading and spelling go hand in hand, therefore phonics should be part of the guided practice time, as well as linking to sight words, spelling, writing, dictation and word work.

We have called in the expert and have neuroscientist, educator and author, **Jared Cooney Horvath** as a special guest joining podcast **#53 The Literacy Big 6 Series - Phonics**

SO HOW DOES THE BRAIN LEARN TO READ?



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