Working with Letters, Sounds and Words in our Classrooms

For emergent students

In this block, emergent students need to build two skills:
- Alphabet knowledge
- Phonological awareness

Are you:
- Providing them with alphabet books e.g. http://tinyurl.com/mgbdccx?
- Focusing on 2 or more letters per week with early alphabet learners?
- Using students' names as a basis for early alphabet learners?
- Moving onto Explicit Alphabet Instructional Routine script with a letter per day and 5 letters per week once they know 50% of letters?
- Doing some activities every week with the whole alphabet?
- Pointing out letters and print in the environment?
- Talking about letters and their sounds when you encounter them in everyday activities?
- Providing opportunities to play with letter shapes and sounds?
- Explicitly referencing letter names and sounds in shared reading and writing activities?
- Using mnemonics such as food, people and actions for difficult letters?
- Doing letter sorts or initial letter word sorts?
- Covering onset rime?
- Doing auditory word sorts (no text)?

For conventional students

In this block, conventional students need to build two skills:
- Increase the number of sight words they read automatically
- Learn how to decode and spell unfamiliar words for reading and writing

Are you:
- Using a word wall?
- Introducing 5 high frequency words and/or keywords a week, for weeks 1 – 7 of terms 1, 2 and 3?
- Doing activities to consolidate word wall words every day?
- Encouraging students to use the word wall in writing and reading?
- Doing Systematic Sequential Phonics or Making Words?

Jane Farrall, 2020

- Doing Guess the Covered Word?
- Doing keyword sorts – visual, auditory or spelling?

For more information

Check out the blog posts for emergent students:

- [Let's Chat with Personalised Alphabet Cards](#)
- [We're Going on an Alphabet Hunt](#)
- [Alphabet Books Galore](#)
- [Working with Letters, Sounds and Words in our Classrooms](#)

Remember also to look at:
https://www.comprehensiveliteracy.com/working-with-letters-and-sounds.html#/ (emergent)

Check out the blog posts for conventional students:

- [Word Walls: Getting the Resources Ready](#)
- [Word Walls: Using the Word Wall](#)
- [Using the Word Wall in Writing](#)
- [Making a Portable Word Wall](#)
- [Making Word Wall words in Boardmaker](#)
- [Word up - 2019 is here and we're going to the wall!](#)

Remember also to look at:
https://www.comprehensiveliteracy.com/working-with-words.html#/