

A person is sitting on a tall stack of books. They are wearing blue jeans with the cuffs rolled up. They are holding a book open in their hands. The background is a plain, light color.

Tutorial: Teaching the Foundation of the Orton-Gillingham Approach to Reading and Spelling.

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TWR 2000 – Project 3

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Introduction

Welcome to the Aardvark Reading and Spelling Program!

The goal of this tutorial is to prepare you to begin working with your child or your student to improve their reading and spelling. This tutorial is based on the Orton-Gillingham approach to reading and spelling, the most research-backed and highly recommended approach.

This tutorial is for English speaking parents of children that struggle to read and spell OR those with younger children who do not yet know how to read. It is also for teachers and tutors looking to work with children who struggle to read and spell.

By the end of this course you will know how to:

1. Understand and teach phonemic awareness
2. Properly pronounce the sounds of English
3. Understand how to work with your student

Completing this tutorial will give you the foundation of knowledge needed to begin teaching children to read and spell. If you have a child, or work with children who struggle with reading and spelling, this tutorial will teach you the basic structure of the sounds of the English language as well as some skills for teaching children how to manipulate those sounds to facilitate reading and spelling.

Lessons

This tutorial is presented as three separate lessons:

Lesson 1: Phonemic Awareness:

- Phoneme Segmentation
- Phoneme Deletion
- Blending

Lesson 2: Sounds of English:

- Vowels
- Consonants
- Consonant Digraphs

Lesson 3: How to work with your child:

- Things to keep in mind
- Tips & Tricks

Getting Started

Required Tools: Computer/laptop/tablet with an internet connection.

Material: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat, Internet Browser (Chrome, Firefox, Safari, etc.)

Resources: For the offline portion of the tutorial, you will need coloured blocks, index cards, and sharpies in a few different colours.

Knowledge: You must be able to read at a basic level and have basic knowledge of Microsoft Word.

Time needed to complete: 2 hours per lesson is required.

Lesson Contents:

This tutorial consists of 3 separate lessons. Each lesson will be broken down as follows:

1. Lesson Overview – What are the main topics that will be taught in this lesson? Why should you learn this information? What will you be able to do once you have completed this lesson?
2. Procedures – What are the step-by-step procedures you need to follow to be able to successfully teach this information?
3. Exercises – Here you will find exercises that will reinforce the concepts learned within the lesson.
4. Summary of Key Learnings – What are the key learning points within this lesson?

Lesson 1: Phonemic Awareness

Overview

This lesson will give you a definition of phonemic awareness, phoneme segmentation, phoneme deletion and blending. You will also be taught specific techniques for teaching your child how to build their skills in each of those aspects of phonemic awareness.

This is the foundational skill that children need in order to begin understanding how to read and spell.

This lesson will cover four specific topics:

1. Phonemic Awareness
2. Phoneme Segmentation
3. Phoneme Deletion
4. Blending

1. Phonemic Awareness

What is Phonemic Awareness?

Definition: Being aware of and knowing how to manipulate the smallest units of sound in a word.

How to build your child's phonemic awareness skills:

1. There are 3 skills that can be practiced in order to build your child's phonemic awareness skills.
 - a. Phoneme Segmentation
 - b. Phoneme Deletion
 - c. Blending
2. In the following sections you will learn the specific skills needed to work on each of these 3 skills.

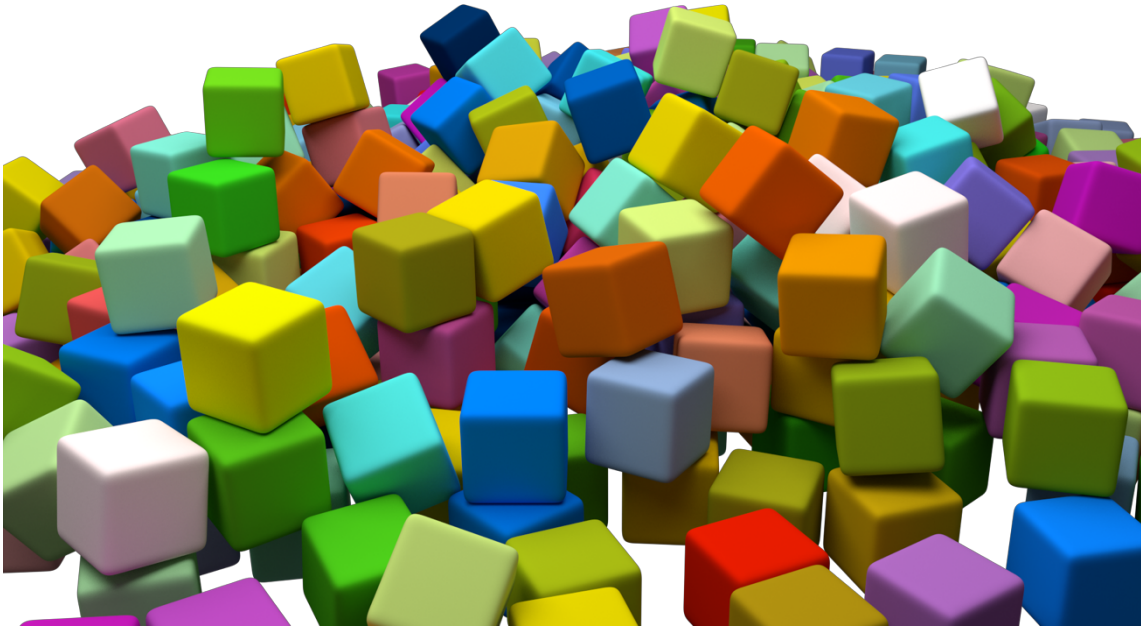
2. Phoneme Segmentation

What is phoneme segmentation?

Definition: Identifying and separating each individual sound within a word.

How to teach your child phoneme segmentation:

1. Prepare 6-10 coloured materials that your child will use to build and break down words (you could use coloured blocks, marbles, Lego, balls, basically anything that you can move around and that has a selection of colours).



2. Explain to your child that you will be giving them a word and then they will need to use the blocks (or whatever material you have chosen) to build and breakdown the word.
3. Use the handout provided (Appendix 1) to find the word lists for phoneme segmentation.
4. Give your child one word from the list and ask them to use a different coloured block to represent each sound they hear in the word. For example: "Your word is AT, choose a block for each sound that you hear in the word AT and then place them in front of you

on the table.”



5. If the word you give has two identical sounds (i.e. DAD) have your child use the same coloured block for the same sound.
6. Once your child has represented each sound in the word have them use the index and middle finger of their dominant hand to tap on each block, while saying the sound that it represents.
7. Once they have tapped out each sound have them drag their fingers under the blocks to blend the sounds together.
8. Repeat steps 4-7 for each word in the handout.

TIP: If your child is having difficulty identifying any of the sounds you can demonstrate a word for them or give them each sound one-by-one.

You are now ready to move on to learning how to teach Phoneme Deletion!

3. Phoneme Deletion

What is Phoneme Deletion?

Definition: The ability to remove a phoneme (or phonemes) within a word.

How to teach your child Phoneme Deletion:

1. Prepare 6-10 coloured materials that your child will use to build and break down words (you could use coloured blocks, marbles, Lego, balls, basically anything that you can move around and that has a selection of colours).
2. Explain to your child that you will be giving them a word and then they will need to use the blocks (or whatever material you have chosen) to build a word and then remove phonemes from the word.
3. Use the handout provided (Appendix 1) to find the word lists for phoneme deletion.

4. Give your child one word from the list and ask them to use a different coloured block to represent each sound they hear in the word.



5. Pick a sound and ask your child to remove that sound from the word (they physically remove the block).
6. Ask your child the following: “When we remove that sound, what sounds do we have left?”
7. Start with asking your child to remove the first sound in the word. Once they are comfortable removing the first sound in a word, move on to asking them to remove the final sound in the words.

8. Repeat steps 4-7 for each word in the handout.

TIP: If your child struggles, have them tap out the full word again, remove the sound, and then just tap the remaining sounds.

You are now ready to move on to teaching blending!

4. Blending

What is blending?

Definition: Blending the individual phonemes in a word together in order to read the word.

How to teach your child blending:

1. Prepare 6-10 coloured materials that your child will use to build and break down words

(you could use coloured blocks, marbles, Lego, balls, basically anything that you can move around and that has a selection of colours).
2. Explain to your child that you will be giving them the individual sounds, one at a time, they will choose a block for each sound and then blend the sounds together to read the word.
3. Use the handout provided to find the word lists for blending.
4. Say the first sound to your child and have them pull down a block for that sound. Have them repeat the sound back to you.
5. Repeat step 4 for each sound in the word.

6. Once all of the sounds have been given and a block has been pulled down for each sound, have your child repeat each sound while tapping the block.
7. Once they have tapped out each sound have them drag their fingers under the blocks to blend the sounds together and read the word.
8. Repeat steps 4-7 for each word in the handout.

TIP: Tell your child that blending sounds together is actually the process of reading. Celebrate each word your child blends together!

You have now learned the 3 skills that make up phonemic awareness!

Exercise Time!

You are now ready to practice the skills you have learned with your child!

Use the handout (appendix 1) to move through the exercises!

Lesson Summary

Congratulations! You've completed the Phonemic Awareness lesson!

In this lesson you learned:

- What phonemic awareness is.
- How to teach phoneme segmentation.
- How to teach phoneme deletion.
- How to teach blending.

You are now ready to move on to learning the sounds of English!

Lesson 2: Sounds of English

Overview

This lesson will teach you the sounds of the English language so that you can accurately teach your child.

Knowing the sounds of English will greatly improve their ability to read and spell.

This lesson will cover three specific topics:

1. Vowels
2. Consonants
3. Consonant Digraphs

1. Sounds of English – Vowels

Every word in the English language needs a vowel. Proper pronunciation of each sound is crucial for students learning how to read and spell. Vowel sounds are the foundation of English and knowing these sounds helps students understand, rather than memorize.

Before you can effectively work with your child to build their reading and spelling skills, you need to ensure that you are pronouncing each speech sound properly. This section of the lesson will teach you just that.

How to properly pronounce the vowels in English:

1. Open up your Aardvark Reading a Spelling online training portal by going to www.aardvark.thinkific.com and clicking on “Parent Pre-Course Module”.
2. Once the course has opened, click “Sounds of English 1 – Vowels”.
3. Click on the “Vowels – short and long” video to watch a quick tutorial on how to pronounce each short and long vowel sound.
4. Click on “Sound Chart – Vowels” and download the attached sound chart by clicking “DOWNLOAD”. You will use this chart during “Exercise Time” at the end of this lesson.

You now know how to properly pronounce all of the single vowel sounds in English! We will now move forward to the next section where you will learn the proper pronunciation of each consonant sound.

2. Sounds of English – Consonants

Single consonants are what make up the bulk of most of the words we use while reading and spelling. Knowing the proper pronunciation of these sounds will allow you to help your child more easily understand how the English spelling system works.

This section of the lesson will teach you how to properly pronounce each consonant sound.

How to properly pronounce the consonants in English:

1. Open up your Aardvark Reading a Spelling online training portal by going to www.aardvark.thinkific.com and clicking on “Parent Pre-Course Module”.
2. Once the course has opened, click “Sounds of English 1 – Consonants”.
3. Click on the “Consonants” video to watch a quick tutorial on how to pronounce each consonant sound.
4. Click on “Sound Chart – Consonants” and download the attached sound chart by clicking “DOWNLOAD”. You will use this chart during “Exercise Time” at the end of this lesson.

You now know how to properly pronounce all of the single consonant sounds in English! We will now move forward to the next section where you will learn the proper pronunciation of consonant digraphs (two consonants together).

3. Sounds of English – Consonant Digraphs

English is made of combinations of letters that are used to build words. Moving beyond simple CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words requires combining multiple consonants and vowels together to create more complex words.

This section of the lesson will introduce you to the consonant digraphs (two consonants together) in the English language as well as how to properly pronounce them.

The consonant digraphs and how to pronounce them:

1. Open up your Aardvark Reading a Spelling online training portal by going to www.aardvark.thinkific.com and clicking on “Parent Pre-Course Module”.
2. Once the course has opened, click “Sounds of English 1 – Consonant Digraphs”.
3. Click on the “Consonant Digraphs” video to watch a quick tutorial on what consonant digraphs are used in English as well as how to pronounce each consonant digraph.
4. Click on “Sound Chart – Consonant Digraphs” and download the attached sound chart by clicking “DOWNLOAD”. You will use this chart during “Exercise Time” at the end of this lesson.

You now know what consonant digraphs are, which ones are used in the English language and how to properly pronounce each one! We will now move to the Exercise Time section so that you can practice the skills you have just learned!

Exercise Time!

You are now ready to practice the skills you have learned with your child!

1. Take out the sound charts you downloaded in step 4 of each section of this lesson.
2. Work through each chart saying the name of the letter, the pronunciation of each letter and then fill out the third column by picking a keyword for yourself that will help you remember each pronunciation.
3. Find a partner with whom to practice. Have them randomly pick a vowel, consonant or consonant digraph.
4. For each letter your partner picks, you must say its pronunciation as well as your chosen

keyword.

Lesson Summary

Congratulations! You've completed the Sounds of English lesson!

In this lesson you learned:

- The proper pronunciation of short and long vowels.
- The proper pronunciation of all single consonants.
- The consonant digraphs in English as well as how to properly pronounce each one.

You are now ready to move on to learning how to work with your child!

Lesson 3: Working with your Child

Overview

This lesson will teach you some effective strategies for working with your child. It is often difficult to work with our own children and there are strategies that have been proven effective. If you are a teacher or a tutor you often work with children who struggle to read and spell as a result of learning differences or attention issues. The tips within this lesson are designed to help in this situation as well.

Having strategies in place before working with a child will help you to help them in the best way possible.

This lesson will cover two specific topics:

1. Things to Keep in Mind
2. Tips and Tricks

1. Things to Keep in Mind

Every child has the desire to read and spell yet many struggle within the current education system. There are many factors that influence this trend and one of them is the prevalence of learning differences and attention issues in the youth of today.

Before you can effectively work with your child to build their reading and spelling skills, you will need to keep a few things in mind.

Things to keep in mind:

1. 1 in 5 students has dyslexia or other specific learning disabilities/differences.
2. Students with dyslexia are no less intelligent than their peers.
3. The reason students with dyslexia struggle in school is that we do not teach the way that they learn.
4. Your student's struggles are not the result of a lack of effort. In fact, they are often putting forth a greater effort than those without learning differences.
5. Just because your student isn't looking at you does not mean that they aren't listening to you.
6. You are now on the journey to learning how to effectively teach students with dyslexia, other learning differences and even emergent readers.

You now know that your student may be facing unique challenges that contribute to their difficulties with reading and spelling. Keeping these challenges in mind, let's move on to the next section of the lesson where you'll learn some effective tips and tricks to help you.

2. Tips and Tricks

Now that you are aware of the difficulties your child or student may be facing when learning to read and spell, we will provide you with some tips and tricks to help you work together effectively.

This section of the lesson will teach you how to move through challenges that arise while you're working with your child/student.

Tips and Tricks:

1. Give your student processing time. Those with learning differences have the ability to

give you the answer but they often need more time to process your question. It's ok for there to be silence in the room while they are thinking – avoid the urge to ask follow-up questions.

2. Clip the /uh/ sound off (like you viewed in the pronunciation videos) when pronouncing phonemes and encourage them to do so as well.
3. Avoid saying the word “no” when the student is incorrect. Instead try to lead them to an answer by having them reference previous learnings.
4. Ask them if how you have explained something makes sense to them. If they say “no”, explain it in a different way.
5. Lead students to the answer rather than giving them the answer.
6. Outline exactly what you will be teaching them and break it down into sizeable chunks.
7. Many students tend to fixate on time. Have an analog clock and place a post-it note with an arrow at the time you will be finished a specific task. This takes their focus off of the clock and back to you.
8. Ask them to practice active listening. Have them repeat back what you have said in their own words.
9. Identify their strengths. Ask them what they are great at and use their strengths to help with their learning.
10. Above all: make it evident that you are there to work with them to make reading and

spelling easier.

You now know how to properly work with your child/student to ensure that they will be able to learn the concepts you are teaching.

Exercise Time!

You are now ready to practice the skills you have learned with your child!

1. Ask your child/student to tell you three things that they are good at. Think of the ways that you can use these strengths to help them learn better.
2. Have your child/student practice pronouncing the single consonant sounds. Hold up a card with each consonant sound on it one-by-one. Remind your child each time that they must clip off the /uh/ sound in order to properly pronounce it.

Lesson Summary

Congratulations! You've completed the Working with your Child lesson!

In this lesson you learned:

- Things to keep in mind when teaching reading and spelling.
- Tips and tricks to effectively work with your child/student.

You are now well-equipped to begin the journey of teaching your child/student how to read and spell.

Tutorial Summary

Congratulations! You've finished the Teaching the Foundation of the Orton-Gillingham Approach to Reading and Spelling tutorial. You should now be able to understand and teach phonemic awareness, properly pronounce the sounds of English and work effectively with your child.

Remember that this is a journey you will be taking with your child and that you have just laid the foundation upon which you can build knowledge for both you and your child/student.

- Phonemic Awareness is knowing the sounds and how to manipulate them.
- Knowing the sounds of English will allow you to effectively teach your child to read and spell.
- Working with children with learning differences, or with your own neurotypical child, comes with a set of challenges that can be overcome with consistent effort and loads of compassion.

Check your online learning portal (www.aardvark.thinkific.com) regularly for updates and additional training opportunities.

Additional Resources

You can find additional training resources www.aardvark.thinkific.com to learn how to further help teach children how to read and spell.

Background information on the Orton-Gillingham approach can be found at the following websites:

www.ortongillinghamonline.com

<https://www.ortongillinghamyorkregion.com>

Appendix

Appendix 1

See attached “Appendix 1 – Phonemic Awareness Exercises.PDF”