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Phonics

Statement of Purpose

Phonics instruction teaches students the relationship between letters and sounds in language. Learning phonics will help students learn to read and spell. The sounds of letters and letter combinations will help students decode words as he/she reads. Knowing phonics will also help students know which letters to use as he/she writes words. “Reading is a difficult process. Here’s why…84% of the words in the English language are phonetically correct, but the 16% that are not phonetically correct appear in all types of literature 80% of the time” (Dowd, 1999).

Phonics continues to be a valuable tool all the way through elementary. According to Sasson, the goal of sequencing instruction to explicitly teach phonics is very much like a patchwork quilt: moving from oral to phonic experience to recognizing whole words. Students of all levels and abilities need exposure and practice in order to become fluent readers.

Students coming into fifth grade still lack phonics skills. Students are unable to sound out unfamiliar words or sound out words in order to try to spell a word. Working on these skills for 10-15 minutes daily will help with their decoding, writing, fluency and may improve their comprehension in the long run. Using the phonics dance to practice phonics is an engaging way to get students to understand phonics. The phonics dance gets auditory learners involved and the instruction will get visual and hands on learners involved as well. Phonics has many components or skills that students need to learn. The phonics dance approach is an engaging approach the students will enjoy and will begin to see their progress through their reading.

References

Sasson, D. (2008). Explicit Phonics Instruction Decoding and Phonemic Instruction Helps Build Good Reading Skills. *Suite 101*. Retrieved May 17, 2009, from <http://primaryschool.suite101.com/article.cfm/explicit_phonic_instruction>

Dowd, G. (1999). The Phonics Dance Six Steps to Literacy In The Primary Grades (p. 5). Virginia A. Dowd.