

LETTERS, SOUNDS AND WORDS CONTINUUM GUIDE TO TEACHING

Emergent			
Students know:	Less than 50% of the alphabet	Many letters, more than 50% of the alphabet	Most letters, more than 80% of the alphabet
Learning Focus and Strategies:	• Learn the alphabet • Increase number of letters student knows • Focus on 2 or more letters per week. • Instruction focuses on both letter names and high frequency letter sounds. • For beginning alphabet learners (know fewer than 10 letters), select high interest letters to target in the beginning, e.g. letters in their name.	• Learn the alphabet • Increase number of letters student knows • Focus on 5 or more letters per week • Equal focus on letter names and high frequency letter sounds • Use Explicit Alphabet Instruction Routine (EAIR) for letter of the day, plus letter sorts and whole alphabet activities • Develop phonological awareness using word families, focus on initial sounds only	• Consolidate the alphabet • Explicit Alphabet Instruction Routine (EAIR) for letter of the day, plus letter sorts and whole alphabet activities • Continue to develop phonological awareness; if student is hearing initial sounds easily then include final sounds
Students in class in this group:			

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Transitional & Conventional			
Students know:	Most of the letters, most of the time & can hear at least initial sounds in words	Most of the first 100 Oxford Word List words (read & write); completed Simplified Systematic Synthetic Phonics Book 1	Knows all Oxford Word List words (read & write); completed Simplified Systematic Synthetic Phonics Book 4
Learning Focus and Strategies:	• Work through modified accessible Phonics Lessons for Phases 1 – 5 (original from Literacy Hub). • Implement Simplified Systematic Synthetic Phonics Book 1 • Introduce Word Wall using first 100 Oxford word list words • Other activities, e.g. Guess the Covered Word, as appropriate	• Word Wall – continue to systematically work through the Oxford Word list words • Simplified Systematic Synthetic Phonics Books – continue to systematically work through Books 2 to 4	• Student will continue to learn in this area through their reading and writing
Students in class in this group:			