

## ASSESSMENT



### RESOURCES FOR ASSESSING MATHS

#### General

In addition to the Progress in Understanding Mathematics (PUMA) sample materials by Hodder, we now have a set of Head Start Primary Maths Assessment Tests for Years 1 to 4. These photocopiable tests are aligned to the current National Curriculum and cover aspects of number, measurement and geometry.

#### More Specialist Assessment

The Base numeracy assessment can be used with pupils to identify and plan teaching for gaps in knowledge and understanding with early number concepts. Games and activities to support teaching following assessment are covered on our 'Supporting Children with Specific Learning Difficulties in Number' course which is run regularly at the Base.

We also have loan copies of 'The Dyscalculia Assessment' by Jane Emerson and Patricia Babbie and 'More Trouble with Maths' by Steve Chinn, both of which are readable resources for class teachers and SENCOs working in this area.

### ASSESSING PHONOLOGICAL SKILLS

If the Base Phonological Assessment indicates gaps in phonological skills, schools may wish to carry out further assessment and/or put an intervention in place. We have loan copies of Sound Linkage by Peter Hatcher which contains photo-copiable assessment materials and a comprehensive teaching plan for pupils which can be implemented by a Teaching Assistant.



### READING

All our schools have a copy of our Baseline Phonics Assessment, and many schools are already using this to plan and implement 'next steps' e.g. implementing the Base 'Lift Off' intervention. If you would like to use a standardised assessment in addition to this, we have a loan copy of the York Assessment of Reading Comprehension. These resources are broken into early reading and passage reading resources and give detailed information of strengths and areas for development to enable a teacher to plan 'next steps'.

**Please ask your link teacher if you would like to borrow these resources for evaluation (not photocopying!)**

# NEWSLETTER

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Autumn Term 2015

Welcome back to all our schools - we hope you had a good summer and have returned to school feeling refreshed.

We are delighted to welcome Sheran Adlington to our team, an experienced SENCo and fully qualified SpLD Teacher.

We will all be bringing our new, free resource 'Informing Choices' to our link schools, to help you in selecting the most appropriate interventions for your pupils. As usual, we are delighted to be highlighting some examples of good practice in our newsletter, to enable you to make contact with colleagues and find out more about 'what works' in the Watford area.

Best wishes for the year ahead.

*Lynne, Emma, Laura, Sheran, Sue and Amanda*



### READING REVIVAL

Thoughts from Pamela Chapman Abbots Langley School:

*"These books are fabulous. They are modern and attractive, but have the essence of reading schemes of the past, a winner in my book!"*

*The children I am working with, for the first time are reading with fluency and confidence.*

*A very simple system which involves the children reading through a list of words, when 3 errors occur, that is the book number to start on. Quick and easy, it takes minutes. I highly recommend these books."*

### NUMICON



St Anthony's Roman Catholic Primary have recently purchased this resource after borrowing a loan pack from the Base:

*"Initially, I was interested in Numicon for a few children with very special educational needs. Being able to borrow a set of materials to experiment with meant we could try it out in Early Years and KS1 as well, before deciding to invest. It has proved very popular with teachers and children and definitely brightens up Maths!"*

Jennie Martin



## LIFT OFF GROUPS AT WATFORD FIELD INFANTS

Following training by the base on the new 'Lift Off' intervention, I began to consider whether this type of intervention would work for some of our SEND children who are currently not accessing and achieving through the RWI phonics scheme. Through discussions with our Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher and Teaching Assistant who had already had the training and those I wanted to facilitate the group, we decided to trial the intervention with 6 of our Year 1 and 2 children.

Saria Gulfranz and Sue Tunstall (Teaching Assistants) adapted the intervention in order for it to be successful for a group to access. Using the word families 'at', 'an', 'et', 'in', 'ot' and 'og', we set about creating word maps and flash cards in the same style as the ones we received from Laurance Haines. Then through a week of trial and error they came up with the following format to use on a 4 day cycle:

1. Speed Sounds (RWI; to enable the children to identify all phonemes)
2. Flash cards with family words taught: group and individual children reading the words
3. Magnetic boards; making words from the word families
4. Word map on a whiteboard; children write a word from a family
5. Children practice writing the words from the word family in their books
6. Practice red words (HFW's) building on the words they already know
7. Hold a simple sentence using the words from the word family, discussing basic punctuation. Children read the sentence and check it makes sense
8. Fine motor activity: writing words from the word family using paint, sand, glitter, colouring pencils etc.

The results have become evident in a short time. These SEND children who were not recalling, blending and segmenting simple CVC words are now able to recall from memory 'at' and 'an' words with an increasing degree of independence. They are able to create word maps of their own and use the words, with support, to create simple sentences. The biggest difference this group intervention has made for these children is their boost in confidence and self-esteem. Their enthusiasm and eagerness is evident during each lesson as they share the words with their peers and work together to build sentences. Class teachers have also noticed a difference in the children's attitude to learning, as they now have more of a 'can do' attitude to their learning.

Gemma Hall, SENCo

## INSET PROGRAMME

Autumn 2015

Course	Date & Time	Price
New Sencos and Head Teachers Introduction to the SpLD Base	16.09.15 4.00 - 4.45	FREE
Introductory Course for TAs - Literacy (3 Part Course)	29.09.15, 06.10.15 & 13.10.15/12.45-2.45	£90.00 pp
Building an Outstanding Reading School - James Clements	30.09.15 9.30 - 3.30	£25.00 pp
Introductory Course TAs - Number (3 Part Course)	01.10.15, 08.10.15 & 15.10.15/12.45-2.45	£90.00 pp
Getting started with Toe by Toe	20.10.15 1.15 - 2.45	£30.00
Lift Off! Reading and Spelling Intervention	04.11.15 9.15 - 12.00	£40.00
Fischer Family Trust Wave 3 Literacy Programme (3 days)	12.11.15, 19.11.15 & 26.11.15/9.30-3.00	See individual flier
Write Away Together	18.11.15 9.30 - 3.00	£110 pp + file/£60 per extra person

All fliers can be viewed and downloaded from our website located at [www.lhaines.herts.sch.uk](http://www.lhaines.herts.sch.uk)