Speech Ease

Structured Synthetic Phonics

Structured Synthetic Phonics (SSP) is an effective method for teaching literacy to children. This approach teaches children to link sounds to letters and blend them together to form words. It follows a systematic and structured approach, progressing from easy to difficult concepts, explicitly taught to the child.

The approach is referred to as "synthetic" as it focuses on blending sounds together and "phonics" as it emphasizes the sounds of the language, rather than letter names.

This approach is important as it builds on the natural skills that children already have in acquiring language. It starts with teaching sounds and maps the sounds on to corresponding written symbols (letters). A set of sounds and letters are taught and mastered at the individual sound/letter level, then word, before moving on to the next set of sounds and letters.

Fun Fact! There are 44 sounds in the English language, but only 26 letters to represent them.

SSP is the recommended literacy method to teach all children to read and write, especially children with diagnosed or suspected literacy difficulties. This is recommended by trusted organisations such as the Australian Dyslexia Association (ADA), Solutions for People Experiencing Learning Difficulties (Australia) (SPELD - Australia). There are several popular SSP programs: Sounds-Write, Orton-Gillingham, PLD literacy, Multi and Mini-Lit, Jolly Phonics, Letters and Sounds, and Little Learners Love Literacy.