

Teaching the Foundations of English Literacy via the Hickey Method

Course Syllabus

Instructor: **Dr. Fern Levitt**

Training Workshop: This course provides practical training in using a structured, multi-sensory phonics-based English teaching method to teach English as a foreign language to beginning learners and learners with language learning issues. It is based on the approaches of Orton-Gillingham in the US and Kathleen Hickey from Great Britain, and has been adapted for EFL learners in Israel. The method can be used for individual tutoring, small groups, and in classrooms. Elements of this approach, including grapheme-phoneme correspondence (explicit teaching of individual letters and letter combinations) and orthographic and morphological patterns, are useful for teaching all English learners.

Tutoring Practice – Tutors and teachers will practice tutoring a student at the under supervision, using this approach. This will help to solidify the teacher's understanding of the elements of the approach through hands-on use.

Course topics:

- Overview of the Hickey Method:
 - Addressing language processing issues
 - Relating to the whole person
 - Working with multiple intelligences, sensory channels, and learning differences
 - Reinforcing organization and good study habits
- Lesson structure of a standard Hickey lesson
 - The types of cards - reading, spelling, rules, and common/exception words
 - Reading a story and scaffolding reading comprehension
 - Word lists for writing practice (why cursive writing?)
 - Games
- Syllabus of new material to be taught in each Hickey lesson
- Orthographic patterns (spelling rules) and exception words
- Creating materials for a Hickey Lesson: story, word list, game
- Lesson-by-lesson instruction in how to teach new material
- Teaching equipment
- Basic assessment tools and techniques

Requirements:

- Attendance and participation in workshop. You will be required to demonstrate your mastery of the method before working with your assigned student in the field.
- Preparation and teaching of weekly Hickey lessons. You will teach under supervision, with scheduled group sessions for questions and feedback. Your lessons will be observed periodically and feedback provided.

- Preparation of a sample Hickey lesson (story, word list, and game).
- Final project: Child study. A report describing your teaching experience, your student's issues and progress.

Bibliography:

- Packet of photocopied materials.

Assignments

1. Prepare a lesson and teach it to a classmate:

Prepare materials for the assigned lesson. Lesson materials include:

- Completed lesson plan
- Pre-prepared white, pink, blue and yellow cards for this lesson.
 - Suggested clue words for the white cards.
 - Sight words (exceptions and common words) for the yellow cards.
 - The blue card on which this spelling will be recorded.
 - The text of the pink card.
- Selected "most common and useful words" for writing on the white board and in notebook, illustrating the new material.
- Choose a story, word list and game to teach (from the Hickey website).

2. Write a lesson: story, word list and game:

A sign-up list will be distributed in class for which lesson you prefer to write.

- Look at the Hickey Word List for the most common words you can use in your story.
- Draft the text of your story and word list, and send it to Fern for review before illustrating.
- The materials should be prepared in digital Word documents (using the Hickey Lesson Template); they will be posted to the Hickey website to share with other tutors and teachers.
- Word list: 12 words and illustrations
- Game: Instructions and elements to reproduce (board, cards, puzzle, etc.)
- Extra credit: additional worksheets or activities to teach the new material and cumulative review.

3. Child Study:

This study will utilize notes you keep during the school year on your lessons with the student you tutor. Keep a record of your sessions: the dates you meet, what you cover, and detailed lesson plans. (Also note when you do not meet at the regular time, and why.) Make notes after each lesson about the difficulties the student is having, how you are handling them or plan to handle them in future lessons, what you covered in the lesson, and what you need to remember for planning future lessons.

The study should include:

- Your baseline assessment of the student's learning issues, using the miscue analysis and other assessment documents.
- An account of what you covered during the course of the lessons and the areas of progress for you and for the learner.
- A description of how you dealt with the student's learning challenges.
- A discussion of which aspects of the Hickey method were most appropriate for the student, and how you adapted the method to address the student's issues.
- A reflection on your experience in teaching via this method.