

Letters from an Experienced English Teacher

I would like to share with you some of my thoughts on the Hickey Method of teaching English.

I have been teaching English in Israel for about 15 years. In my experience, while most students will learn to read English using any conventional method, there are always students for whom conventional methods fail. These students get completely lost in regular classroom environments, and ultimately “fall between the cracks.”

However, with early intervention in a highly organized, structured, one-on-one program using the Hickey Method, these children can and do learn to read. With the Hickey Method, students are never asked to read any words for which they have not acquired the necessary decoding skills, thereby ensuring that the student cannot, and does not, fail. Furthermore, the one-on-one interaction nurtures a special relationship between the teacher and student; the teacher knows exactly what pace is right for that specific student – something that is impossible to achieve in a group of any size.

What makes this program so special is that the children succeed where they never succeeded before, and as teachers have told us, the students gain confidence and good learning habits, which they transfer to other subjects

Working with this program has been a great experience for me. Not only have I learned the Hickey Method, but I was also able to volunteer in a school where most of the students would not be able to afford private lessons in English. A program like this which helps a non-achiever to succeed is invaluable and its effects are far reaching.

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