

ACCELERATING READING IN DEAF CHILDREN

Studies into the reading abilities of profoundly Deaf pupils since 1916 until recently have shown very little differences. Deaf school leavers are completing education with an average reading age of around 9 years old: Pinter and Paterson (1916), Wrightstone, Aranow and Muskowitz (1963), Di Francesco (1972), Furth (1966), Jensema (1975), Conrad (1979). Yet throughout this time educators for the Deaf urged reading development to be the priority for all pupils,

“have a deaf child learn books in order to learn the language, instead of learning the language in order to read books” Bell (1929)

Deaf children have spent their years in education playing ‘catchup’ rather than learning the curriculum as established readers. At Heathlands we have put all of the best techniques, methods and strategies to form a whole child approach to reading involving the school and home to fully immerse children in language.

STEPPING STONES TO LANGUAGE AND LITERACY FOR PROFOUNDLY DEAF PUPILS

CHILD OBSERVES LANGUAGE AROUND THEM

‘WORD RICH’ ENVIRONMENT

ADULTS INVOLVED MODEL LANGUAGE

REGULAR STORY TELLING

OPEN ACCESS TO BOOKS AND PICTURES

SIGN GRAPHICS USED WITH KEY WORDS/ PICTURES

“READING” PICTURE BOOKS

SHARING BOOKS WITH CHILD

CHILD READING DAILY WITH AN ADULT AT HOME AND SCHOOL

HOME AND SCHOOL USING READING SCHEME BOOKS DAILY

TRANSFERRING MEANING BETWEEN ENGLISH AND BSL

HOME AND SCHOOL USE AGREED SIGNS

‘SIGNS’ TENSE

USES SINGULAR AND PLURAL SIGNS

USES POSSESSIVE APOSTROPHE

PHRASES RECORDED AND GIVEN APPROPRIATE SIGN(S)

VISUAL PHONICS USED FOR DECODING

SIGN GRAPHICS USED FOR UNKNOWN WORDS WITH CHILD AND ADULT

ADDRESS WORD LEVEL WORK IN LESSONS- I.E. PREFIXES/SUFFIXES

RECOGNISING AND USING COMPOUND WORDS

MASCULINE/FEMININE WORDS GIVEN CLEAR IDENTITY

CURRENT DATA AT HEATHLANDS SINCE APPLYING THIS PROGRAMME WITH PROFOUNDLY DEAF PUPILS WHO USE BSL:

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
CHILD A					
Chronological age	4.11	5.11	6.11	7.11	8.11
Reading age	Not yet reading	6	7.08	8.02	9.09
CHILD B					
Chronological age	6	7	8	9	10
Reading age	5.1	6.09	8.08	9.03	10
CHILD C					
Chronological age			6.3	7.3	8.3
Reading age			5.3	6.8	8.3
CHILD D					
Chronological age			5.6	6.6	7.6
Reading age			5.1	6.8	8.0