

English Hubs Training

There is a new initiative in England to get all children reading, called the English Hubs initiative. Sound Discovery® is at the forefront of this initiative as one of the country's 'validated' systematic synthetic phonics programmes.

In the spring of 2018 the Department for Education (DfE) launched a radical, national initiative to tackle the ongoing problem of children who struggle to read and to drive up literacy standards. It is called the **English Hubs** initiative and it exists to promote and fund high quality systematic, synthetic phonics programmes (SSP) and training. The focus is on getting children off to a strong start from the very beginning in Reception and in Year 1 and on identifying straight away the children who struggle. See here for more information about the English Hubs initiative:

<https://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/about-us/blog-news/article/english-hubs-training-centre/>

Marlynn Grant is an associate of the English Hubs Training Centre (EHTC) and has been closely involved with these initiatives and with training in some of the most disadvantaged areas of England. Since March 2019, Marlynn Grant and Jackie Day have delivered Sound Discovery® training in several settings: for example in Sheffield, Middlesbrough, Shaftesbury, Northampton, Dudley, Bath and Winterbourne.

Several documents were produced for the English Hubs Initiative:

[EH Document 1 EHTC – Challenge Checklist](#)

[EH Document 2 SD – Assessment and guide to starting strong in Reception](#)

[EH Document 3 SD – Practice Map for teachers](#)

[EH Document 4 SD – Practice Map for teachers – Mentor Musings](#)

[EH Document 5 SD – Practice Map for coaching on core activities](#)

[EH Document 6 EHTC – 20% Assessment Plan](#)

[EH Document 7 SD – Assessment for EH Portal](#)

[EH Document 8 SD – Assessment Schedule](#)

Feedback from Training:

1. "Very thorough. I know a lot about phonics but I still learnt new things today so thank you. I'm much better prepared to support my schools. Best English Hubs training so far!!" (English Hub Literacy Specialist for partner school).
2. "So many positive things... clear, well prepared and very knowledgeable in your subject area; passionate and able to explain things in different ways; included ways we can help our children who have fallen behind to catch up again; answered our questions well and helped us to understand how we can make things work in our setting – thank you" (English Lead and Y5 teacher)
3. "Reading, spelling, writing, whole-class groups, interventions – all covered." (SENDCo)

4. "Excellent logical structure of presentation. The handwriting was very useful and the motivation that the system works from the very weakest – never give up!" (Year 1 Class Teacher).
5. "Having lesson plans and resources is so useful as it makes it possible to use straight away." (Class Teacher)
6. "Some great ideas and advice to take away and brilliant resources." (Class Teacher)
7. "I find the Snappy Lessons very clear to follow and the resources are great. The simple structure allows me to apply within interventions." (Teaching Assistant)
8. "It was very useful to work through the progression of the programme alongside videos, to demo the structure of lessons and the resources used. It was clear to see how lessons should look in schools using the programme." (English Hubs Literacy Specialist for partner school).
9. "I love the clear structure. Very well delivered – knowledgeable and concise." (Early Years Teaching Assistant).
10. "I agree with the whole school approach. It was relevant for Year 6." (Y6 Class Teacher)
11. "Friendly, well informed leaders – thank you for your patience." (Nursery, Teaching Assistant)
12. "As a Year 4 class teacher, having the opportunity to assess newcomers/strugglers to pinpoint gaps in their phonics knowledge." (Y4 Class teacher)
13. "I like how it continued into Year 6. I like the lesson plans and how it fits with spellings." (Y6 Class Teacher)
14. "It was really inspiring to hear the statistics that even the lowest EAL/SEN children can catch up and exceed expectations. I am excited about trying it with my class." (Year 2 Class Teacher)
15. "Being a Year 6 teacher going through the advanced code desk mats really helped. Good links to spellings and teaching through columns and the need for repetition." (Year 6 Class Teacher).

16. "Assessments to link to where to start is good and its use with EAL and for vocabulary." (Early Years Teaching Assistant).
17. "Amazing knowledge – lots to take in. Lots of resources and plans which are really helpful." (Key Stage 1 Class Teacher)
18. "Like the magnetic boards. Was explained very well. Good handouts." (Early Years Teaching Assistant)
19. "Detailed and up to date with clear plans. Can see the theory behind the programme with reviewing, repetition and routine" (Primary Head Teacher)
20. "Very informative and well planned resources. Detailed info on phonics screening check great – thank you." (Year 1 Class Teacher)
21. "It was useful to be able to practise skills as we went along and see examples of lessons." (SENDCo)
22. "I like how it caters for whole school and not just R, Y1 and 2" (KS2 Teaching Assistant)
23. "Lots of examples given. It was fab to see a video of a Snappy Lesson and also to be children ourselves. The resources were discussed well and we had all the support materials needed." (KS1 Class Teacher).
24. "I really like the Snappy Lesson pack and flicking fingers and blending of sounds." (KS1 Teaching Assistant)
25. "I like that there are complete lesson plans. As a T.A. that is particularly important." (Early Years Teaching Assistant)
26. "Very knowledgeable presenters. Backed up by research and educational theory. Helpful to understand ways of teaching split digraphs, rather than 'magic e'. Systematic approach made sense." (SENDCo).
27. "Use of sun symbol for letter formation is amazing. Thank you for this great lesson." (Early Years Teaching Assistant)
28. "It really struck me how important it is to take children's phonics from the beginning without leaving gaps. It was really helpful to see the ordered structure for building up phonics. Demonstrating lessons was also really helpful to see." (Reception Class Teacher).

29. "For a new teacher who has started in KS2 it was very useful and informative. The handouts will help me over time." (KS2 Class Teacher)
30. "Clear outline of lessons; really useful to see a demo lesson. Active elements of the process will be useful in lessons i.e. finger taps, finger flicks." (KS1 Class Teacher)