



What is the Phonics Dance?

The Phonics Dance is a research based / brain-based literacy program designed for primary students in grades 1 and 2. The actual Phonics Dance is Step One of the Six Steps to literacy used in my classroom. It introduces the children to community learning by using movement, chants, and rhymes to become familiar with the variant sounds that are part of our language. Phonics Dancing ties the other five steps together.

The Six Steps to Literacy are:

Step 1: Sound Attack

The daily review and introduction of short and long vowels, digraphs, diphthongs, and variant vowel sounds reinforced during community learning. In this step the use of movement, chants, and rhymes is essential for student learning.

Step 2: Word Work

The daily review and introduction of high frequency words and Language Arts concepts.

Step 3: Creative Writing

Student writing (both fiction and non-fiction) composed on a daily basis in correlation with weekly themes. These writing activities are based upon the eleven types of writing formats and teach students a variety ways to compose.

Step 4: Student/Teacher Conferencing

Revising, editing, and providing immediate feedback on student writing with an emphasis on structure, spelling, and punctuation.

Step 5: Treacherous (unreliable) Word Training

Vocabulary Instruction. Teaching the eye to look for consonant blends, words within words, rimes (phonograms), magical y, super silent e, and big "hunks" and "chunks" in the decoding process.

Step 6: Reading

Daily practice - independent, shared, group, or partner reading in correlation with literature the teacher has chosen and/or student selected. Listening to students read to each other, by themselves, or to a group or the teacher. Making connections to literature to help with the development of comprehension skills. Learning to infer, predict, question, and think about and beyond reading.

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