

Mythbusters:

Four Blocks Edition



Why is reading and writing important?



- Writing allows person to express themselves and communicate for variety of purposes.
- If person can't read and write, will rely on others for assistance
- Accessing grade-level standards
- Life outcomes – how much richer is your life?

Now, on to the myths!



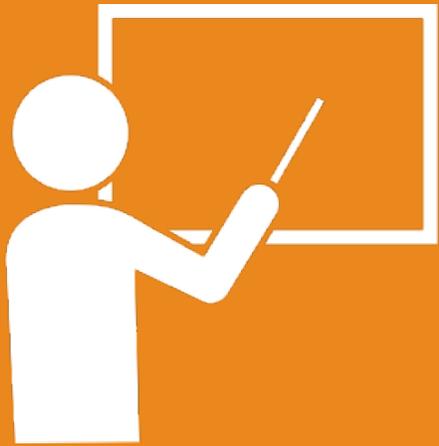
- Historically, there have been three big assumptions about literacy instruction for students with disabilities.
- These assumptions can have a negative impact on students' learning and outcomes.

Myth 1: “This student can’t learn to read or write.”



- Least Dangerous Assumption
- We all started somewhere!
- Maybe we just don't know how to teach them.

Myth 2: “We should be focusing on functional skills.”



- What is more functional than reading and writing?
- Teaching many functional skills do not actually accomplish what they intend.

Myth 3: “This does not apply to my students.



- Every student can benefit from instruction using Four Blocks.
- Four Blocks can be used with any curriculum and with students at any level.
- Supplemental materials should of course be used!

How do we teach literacy now?



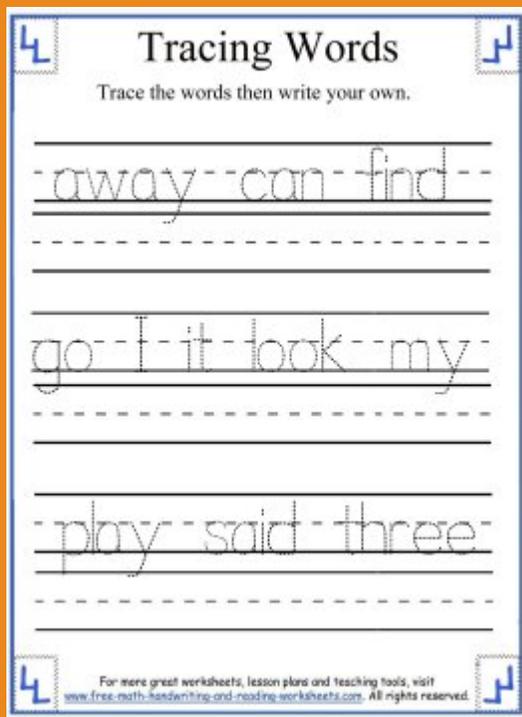
- Let's look at some common literacy practices that we use as Special Educators
- Our main goal should always be helping students read and write independently.
- Not everything we do works towards this goal.

Sight Words/Flash Cards

all	am
are	at
ate	be
black	brown

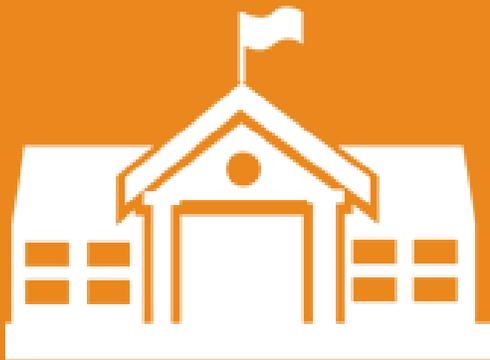
- Teaches in isolation without context.
- Does not help students learn decoding skills.
- No writing component, students can't get their thoughts out.
- Do students even understand what a word is?

Handwriting/Tracing



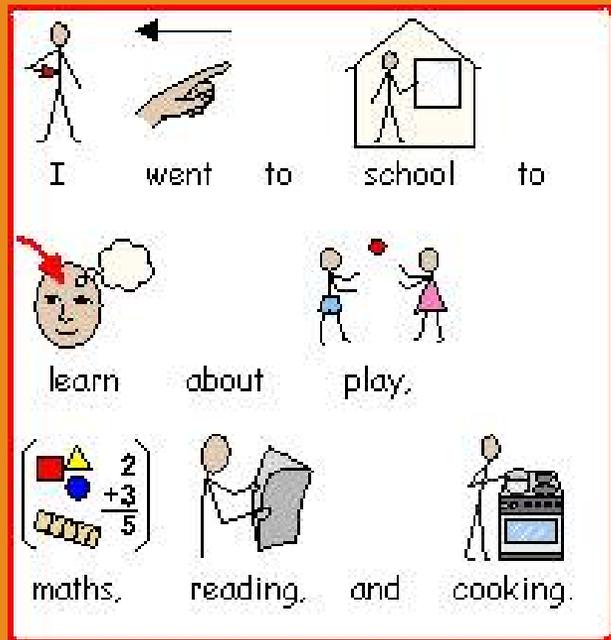
- Every student needs a pencil (traditional, computer, AAC).
- Make sure students have tools to participate in literacy activities, even if they can't write legibly.
- Handwriting and tracing provides no context for what is being written.

Linear Approach to Literacy



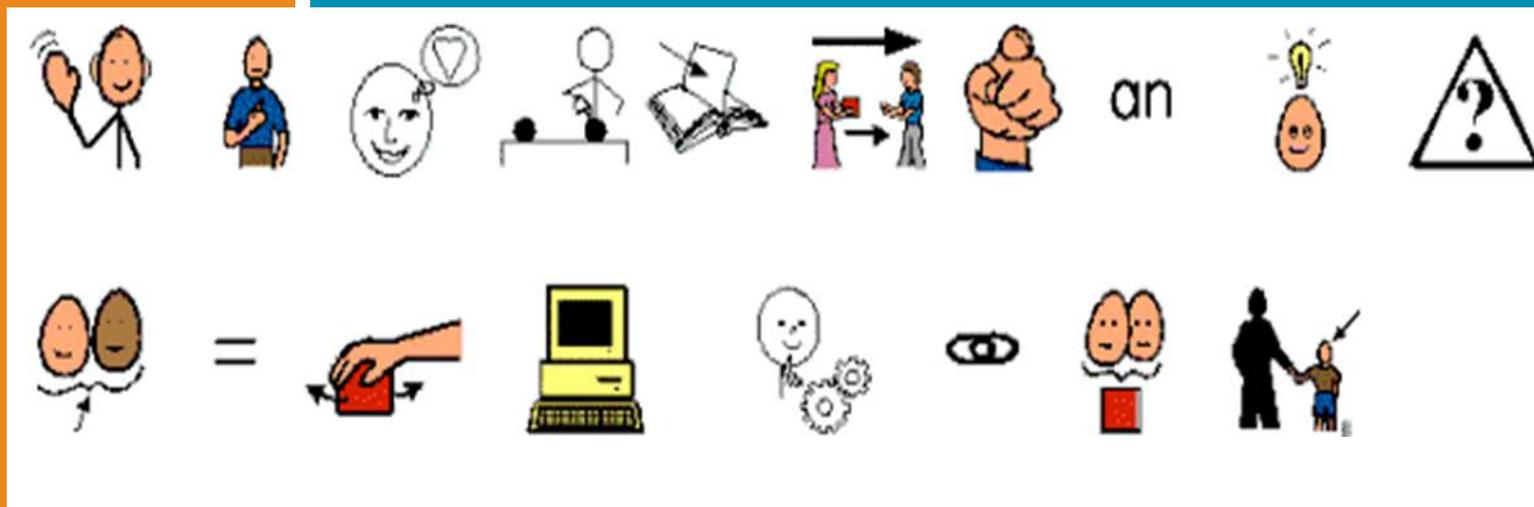
- Do students need prerequisite skills before literacy instruction is worthwhile?
- This leads to students working on letters or tracing their name when they graduate.
- Prerequisite skills often taught in isolation

Picture Symbols

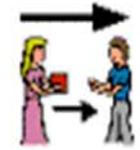
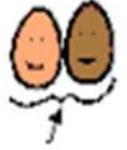


- Useful for communication, but can be detrimental to literacy instruction.
- Students can rely on picture instead of decoding.
- Picture symbols are often not helpful in identifying words.

Can You Read This?



How Well Did You Do?

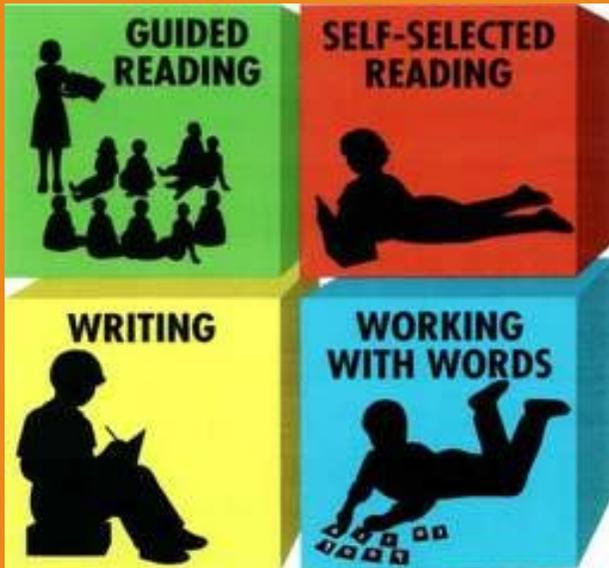
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Hello!	I	hope	this	page	will give	you	an	idea	how
	=								
we	are	using	computer	technology	with	our	son.		

And Finally, a Word About Materials:



- Every student needs access to wide range of books, no matter their reading level.
- Be creative for students who may not be gentle with books.
- Laminated books, printed books, books made from household materials

Conclusion



- This training operates under the assumption that every student can learn to read or write.
- Now, let's learn some tools to make that happen!