

Some students hate reading. They've left their book bags in the cloakroom all through primary school. They can't cut through the distractions around them and find it hard to pay attention. They skip over words they can't recognise, stumble through the words on the page. Their anxiety about reading makes them freeze and so they stare at the pictures instead.

Their struggle will continue to obstruct their progress in school and critically undermine their confidence unless we do something quickly! Read Write Inc. Fresh Start is a successful, bubbly and fun intervention programme developed by Ruth Miskin which is taught 4 times a week in small groups to help make rapid reading progress.

In Fresh Start lessons, children are taught to read accurately and fluently with good comprehension. They learn to spell correctly and compose their ideas for writing step-by-step.

## **Reading**

Lively, age appropriate stories and texts are closely matched to students' increasing knowledge of phonics and 'tricky' words. Students read the story three times: on the first read, students focus on accurate word reading; the second on developing fluency; and the third on comprehension.

Students are taught:

### ***Accuracy***

- To read new sounds and review previously taught sounds;
- To sound out the names of characters and unfamiliar words;
- To understand the meaning of new words;
- To read the story (first read).

### ***Fluency***

- To read words in the story speedily;
- To track the story, 'jumping in' when the teacher hesitates;
- To read the story with increased speed (second read).

### ***Comprehension***

- To predict the outcome, after listening to a story introduction;
- To discuss and compare key moments in the story;
- To read the story with a storyteller's voice (third read);
- To answer questions about the story.

## Writing

Alongside reading, students are taught the English alphabetic code for spelling, and vocabulary and grammar. They rapidly build their spelling knowledge and are soon able to spell complex words confidently.

Students are introduced to a breadth of vocabulary in their reading which soon leads to an adventurous choice of words in their writing. They rehearse out loud what they want to write, sentence by sentence until they are confident enough to write independently.

### *Transcription*

Students learn to:

- Spell common words with common graphemes and suffixes;
- Spell common words with unusual graphemes;
- Write prepared sentences with correct spelling and punctuation.

### *Composition*

Students learn to:

- Build and learn to rehearse their own sentences based on ideas from the story;
- Apply new grammar concepts linked to the story;
- Use new vocabulary in their writing
- Edit their writing to correct their grammar and punctuation;
- Write a composition based on the text they have just read;
- Edit their own and their partner's writing.

As students progress through the levels, they are regularly assessed to ensure they are placed in groups most appropriate for them. If a student is found to be struggling, 1 to 1 sessions are arranged for them to catch up with the group. Students may also be 'fast-tracked' to a more able group when their progress warrants this.

We are delighted to report Read Write Inc. Fresh Start is already making an impact with many students achieving higher levels of reading than in the past.

For more information on Read Write Inc. Fresh Start, please click on the links below.

[Read Write Inc. Fresh Start Link](#)

[RWInc Fresh Start Levels](#)



