'A Speech to Print Approach'

Research shows that effective readers have acquired 'The Alphabetic Principle' - the insight that letters represent speech sounds. In addition, effective readers identify the individual sounds that make up spoken words and recognise the correspondences between these and the written form. It is through this process of decoding and naming new words that learners store words in memory for automatic recognition and recall.

A 'Speech to Print Approach' begins with sound awareness. Individual sounds are identified in spoken words and then segmented orally. These can then be linked to the corresponding letter(s) and constructed using letter tiles.   This allows for a more logical and comprehensive understanding of how the English system works; that sounds may be represented by a variety of letters or patterns. With this approach, learners develop neural pathways in the brain that connect the visual word form area with spoken language and consolidate the habit of word analysis for decoding. In doing so, learners are better equipped to internalise many other complex letter patterns and sequences that they will see in print.

There are many benefits of the 'Speech to Print Approach':

Multi-Sensory

Learners engage by actively listening, constructing and looking at words.

Reinforces the Alphabetic Principle

Learners understand that letters are used to represent sounds.

Supports Learning of Irregular Words

Learners more effectively use phonemic awareness to help learn irregular words.

Supports 'Set for Variability'

Learners understand that sounds may be represented in many different ways. These can be introduced as appropriate to learners' age and stage of development, ensuring that common correspondences and patterns are taught first before those that are less common or more complex.