SUB THEME: LITERACY TEACHING AND COACHING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

TOPIC: USING PHONICS APPORACH TO PROMOTE THE READING ABILITY OF THE EARLY LEARNERS

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PRESENTATION MODE: WORKSHOP

The workshop will be entailed taking participants through the jolly phonics approach and its importance in the early years of children and getting exposed to the different materials for the different levels. The presentation will be participatory and will reflect on something about merging the journey of jolly phonics to benefit children’s reading. Studies carried out prove that reading helps children improve both their literacy and numeracy skills. It is emphasized that for children to learn there must be three things these are namely: Through play, Sensory organs - this is based on what they have noted, Readiness and preparedness. The teaching of early learning has made considerable change through jolly phonics and a number of countries in sub Saharan Africa have embarrassed the method. It was explained that language comprises of sounds and jolly phonics has 42 sounds. Jolly phonics helps in teaching blending, it joins the reading and writing, Jolly phonics helps in teaching comprehension, children can recognize words and understand them. It helps children to learn the tricky words and be able to use them and it has different levels.

Key words: Phonological Awareness, Phonemic awareness

BACKGROUND

Around the world, synthetic phonics is now recognised as the essential method for teaching young children to read. It provides them the skills to be successful. It is highly effective for all children, whether or not they have English as their first language, and for boys equally with girls.

Jolly Phonics is the most popular synthetic phonics programme worldwide. Most of the research on synthetic phonics has been done with Jolly Phonics, while the UK governments adoption of synthetic phonics was modelled on Jolly Phonics.
In Africa, Jolly Phonics is widely used in private schools. Most private schools in Lagos, Accra and Cairo use this approach. In Nigeria, Gambia and Seychelles it is government policy of all state schools.

Jolly Phonics is a fast-track programme for teaching reading that is highly enjoyable because of its multi-sensory and child-friendly approach.

With Jolly Phonics the pupils are first taught the letter sounds of English (so the sounds of the letters, not their names). They are taught each sound with a story that leads to an action. These children have been told the story of a noisy toy plane, and they are now pretending to be that plane, holding out their arms and saying ‘nnnn’ to remember the letter ‘n’.

The children are taught how to blends the letter sounds together to read words (so d-o-g makes dog). In this way the spoken word dog is made, or synthesised (hence synthetic phonics). It gives children the ability to read out new words for themselves. It also enables then to write words by segmenting the word into its sounds, and then writing the letters for those sounds.

Such teaching gives Jolly Phonics an unrivalled record in raising literacy ability. Across many academic studies, children are shown being around a year ahead after one year.

**What is Jolly Phonics?** Jolly Phonics is a fun and child centred approach to teaching literacy through synthetic phonics. With actions for each of the 42 letter sounds, the multi-sensory method is very motivating for children and teachers, who can see their students achieve. The letter sounds are split into seven groups as shown below.

**Letter Sound Order:** The sounds are taught in a specific order (not alphabetically). This enables children to begin building words as early as possible.

**How does Jolly Phonics work?** Using a synthetic phonics approach, Jolly Phonics teaches children the five key skills for reading and writing. The programme continues through school enabling the teaching of essential grammar, spelling and punctuation skills.

**The five skills taught in Jolly Phonics**

- **Learning the letter sounds:** Children are taught the 42 main letter sounds. This includes alphabet sounds as well as digraphs such as sh, th, ai and ue.
- **Learning letter formation:** Using different multi-sensory methods, children learn how to form and write the letters.
- **Blending:** Children are taught how to blend the sounds together to read and write new words.
- **Identifying the sounds in words (Segmenting):** Listening for the sounds in words gives children the best start for improving spelling.
- **Tricky words:** Tricky words have irregular spellings and children learn these separately.
**Why jolly phonics?** It is one of the fastest ways of teaching children learning in an interesting and enjoyable way.

It is also for: - Comprehension, Synthetic phonics, Malt-sensory – it uses the eye, ear, mouth, hand and nose. Motivation and delivers results

**JOLLY PHONICS PACKAGES**

Jolly Phonics Pupil Book 1, black-and-white
Jolly Phonics Pupil Book 2, black-and-white

And each of their teachers will be provided with:

Jolly Phonics Teacher’s Book, black-and-white

**JOLLY PHONICS WORKSHOP SESSION;**

**Learning outcome:** Applying the approach effectively

**Competences:** at the of the session the learners will be able to identify sounds in words blend, sound letters correctly, mention the tricky words

The facilitator will guide the session by following the steps below:

Step 1 (10 mins): Learning the letter sounds
Step 2 (10mins): Learning letter formation
Step 3(10mins): Blending
Step 4(10mins): Identifying the sounds in words (Segmenting)
Step 5(10mins): Tricky words

The participants will be divided in groups for an assigned task and will later demonstrate.

In summary, it is emphasized that for children to learn there must be 3 things these are;

Through play, Sensory organs - this is based on what they have noted and Readiness and preparedness. The teaching of early learning has made considerable change through jolly phonics and a number of countries in sub Saharan Africa have embarrassed the approach.
Jolly phonics helps in teaching blending it joins the reading and writing. Jolly phonics helps in teaching comprehension, children can recognize words and understand them it helps children to learn the tricky words and be able to use them.