What are the principles of the Orton-based approach?

Orton-Gillingham is:

➤Neurologically Based
➤Diagnostic and Prescriptive
➤Multisensory
➤Structured and Sequential
➤Synthetic and Analytic
➤Cumulative
➤Cognitive
➤Flexible
➤Taught toward Automaticity
➤Emotionally Sound

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1. Neurologically Based

➤Based on how the brain works and learns.
Informed by research into reading acquisition and language development.

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2. Diagnostic & Prescriptive

➢ The developmental reading needs of the student are considered in planning a lesson.

➢ Each lesson serves as a diagnostic springboard for the next.

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3. Multisensory

Engages multiple sensory pathways:

➢Visual

➢Auditory

➢Tactile-kinesthetic

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4. Structured & Sequential

➢ Structured lesson plans have specific patterns and activities to organize learning.

➢ Concepts are presented in a specific order, beginning with the most common and consistent concepts.

➢ Helps students develop linguistic logic.

➢ Directly and explicitly taught.

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5. Synthetic and Analytic

➢ Students learn both blending and segmenting.

➢ Lessons and component skills include both reading and spelling.

$$\mathbf{b}\,\mathbf{a}\,\mathbf{t} = \text{bat}$$

$$\text{bat} = /b//a//t/$$

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6. Cumulative

➢ Each newly introduced concept or skill builds upon the student's gained knowledge.

➢ Once a concept or skill is taught, it is never dropped.

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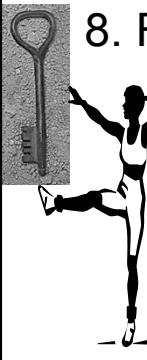August 19, 2013   Education   26

7. Cognitive

➢ Students are explicitly taught the history, patterns, generalizations and rules that govern the structure of English.

➢ Students learn the linguistic logic underlying word structures and patterns.

➢ Students learn to apply language knowledge in reading, writing and spelling.

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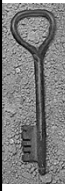August 19, 2013   Education   27

8. Flexible

> Every student has unique needs, strengths and weaknesses.
> Method can be adapted to maximize strengths and remediate weaknesses.
> Anna Gillingham trained teachers to "Go as fast as you can and as slow as you must."

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9. Taught toward Automaticity

> Skills and concepts are practiced to the level of being automatic, requiring no conscious thought or effort.
> Automaticity allows students to apply conscious attention to content.

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10. Emotionally Sound

> Lessons are success-oriented.
> Student experiences a high degree of success.
> Student gains confidence as well as skill.
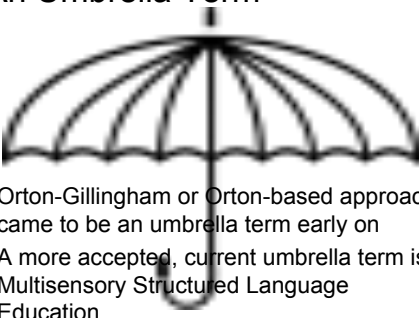> Learning becomes rewarding.

Nice Job!

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How does the field of multisensory structured language education look today?

An Umbrella Term

♦ Orton-Gillingham or Orton-based approach came to be an umbrella term early on
♦ A more accepted, current umbrella term is Multisensory Structured Language Education

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