

LEXION

Lexion is a computer programme which assesses and supports phonological awareness and language skills from six years old to adult. It has been developed by Swedish Speech and Language Therapists over the last 15 years and is already being used extensively in Sweden and other countries worldwide. It has now been adapted for use in the UK.

This is a powerful programme and having worked with it for the past year I am only just beginning to appreciate what it can do. What has attracted me to it most is the ability to tailor exercises for pupils and then install them on a home or school computer using Mini Lexion.

The Assessment is divided into distinct areas:

Phonological Awareness (6-12 yrs) and **Spoonerisms (10-12yrs)**, which focus on the formal side of language involving the manipulation of word, syllable and sounds without seeing any text in writing.

Other tests include:

- **Arrange sounded words 6-12 yrs**
- **Find picture for sounded words 6-9yrs**
- **Arrange sounded letters 7-9yrs**
- **Arrange letters 7-9yrs**
- **Arrange syllables 10-12yrs**
- **Reading 7-12yrs**
- **Reading comprehension 8-12yrs**
- **Spelling 7-12yrs**
- **Memory 7-12yrs**



The tests are hosted by a character called Lex Tester who introduces each task. He wears glasses for the older age group to make the process more appealing.

Once the tests are completed LEXION provides a report on the pupil's performance and then suggests exercises.

Within each exercise there are variations which can be selected according to needs. The programme contains many lists and hundreds of photographs and pictures. The lists can also be modified and new ones added - the possibilities are endless.

The programme also has settings suitable for each school term from YF/R to Y6, or exercises can be modified to the user's requirements.

Our team has been using LEXION with foundation stage children who have weak language skills. Sessions have been conducted with small groups using the interactive white board. The children

have worked on environmental sounds, memory sequencing and pairs, odd one out, listen for the first sound and minimal pairs. We are now creating our own lists to support the mini beasts theme.

For older children the computer based approach is engaging and motivating and encourages positive responses from pupils and teachers.

In all there are 94 different tasks divided into dedicated areas:

- Awareness
- Sound
- Non-words
- Words
- Concept
- Sentence
- Text
- Space
- Clock
- Mathematics
- Miscellaneous including, pitch, memory, mouse chase and create words.

At a price of around £200 I feel this programme is well worth the outlay. Professionals who are experienced with language development and the interaction of phonological awareness will benefit from being able to use it to its fullest extent.

Lexion is currently available in the UK through:

Inclusive Technology www.inclusive.co.uk

iANSYSTS Ltd www.dyslexic.com

Propeller Multimedia Ltd www.propeller.net

Learning Leap Education www.learningleap.co.uk

Frances Girling Specialist Speech & Language Therapist