
Introduction to the Orton-Gillingham Research and the Development of the EdNest Corresponding Scheme

The Orton-Gillingham (OG) approach is one of the most widely respected, research-informed methods for teaching reading and spelling, particularly for pupils with dyslexia and other literacy difficulties. Developed through the pioneering work of neuropsychiatrist Dr Samuel Orton and educator Anna Gillingham, the approach integrates decades of cognitive, linguistic, and educational research into how children learn to decode and encode language. Their work established several core principles that remain central to effective literacy instruction today: teaching must be **systematic, explicit, cumulative, multisensory**, and **diagnostic**, with each new skill building securely upon previously mastered knowledge.

Drawing on this body of research, I have developed a comprehensive Orton-Gillingham-aligned scheme designed to bring these principles into a modern, classroom-ready framework. My scheme retains the scientific rigour of the original OG methodology while adapting it for whole-class, small-group, and one-to-one teaching across the primary years. It provides a clear, cumulative progression of phonics, morphology, spelling rules, and reading skills, ensuring that pupils move from foundational knowledge to advanced application with confidence and accuracy.

The scheme is structured to support teachers in delivering high-quality, consistent instruction. Lessons follow a predictable routine that reinforces memory and fluency, while multisensory elements—such as oral rehearsal, tactile spelling, visual scaffolds, and kinaesthetic practice—ensure that every learner can access and internalise new concepts. Assessment is woven throughout, enabling teachers to identify gaps early and respond with targeted intervention.

By combining the enduring strengths of the Orton-Gillingham approach with contemporary educational practice, this scheme offers a robust, research-driven pathway for developing confident, capable readers and writers. It is designed not only to support pupils with specific learning difficulties, but to raise literacy outcomes for all learners through clarity, structure, and cumulative mastery.

How to Use EdNest Structured Literacy Scheme

This scheme is designed to be taught three times a week. Each lesson has been written so that it can be taught directly from the page, giving teachers a clear, structured sequence to follow while maintaining consistency across the programme.

The lessons have corresponding sound cards and colour-coded word cards. These should be printed on white card and cut out before the lesson so that they are ready to use as part of the teaching sequence.

Each term also has a corresponding booklet containing the lesson resources needed for that term. In addition, there are weekly homework and consolidation booklets, which bring together the learning from the two weekly lessons into one practice session. These booklets are intended to support retrieval, overlearning, and confident application beyond the taught lesson.

Each term includes a set of fluency words in one colour. These should be used for fluency practice in the following term's lessons, helping pupils revisit prior learning, build automaticity, and strengthen reading confidence over time.

Essentials at a Glance

Essential	What to Prepare or Do
Teaching frequency	Teach the scheme three times a week.
Lesson delivery	Teach each lesson directly from the page, following the structured sequence provided.
Sound and word cards	Print the corresponding sound cards and colour-coded word cards on white card and cut them before the lesson.
Magnetic board and letters	Prepare a set of magnetic board and letters for multisensory word-building and spelling practice.
Termly lesson resources	Use the corresponding termly booklet containing the lesson resources for that term.
Homework and consolidation	Use the weekly homework/consolidation booklet to practise learning from the three weekly lessons in one session.
Fluency words	Use each term's one-colour fluency words for fluency practice in the following term's lessons.