

Early Reading Strategies

(it's not just phonics!)

Can you read this?

- according to research at Cambridge University, it doesn't matter in what order the letters in a word are, the only important thing is that the first and last letter is in the right place. This is because the human mind does not read every letter by itself, but the word as a whole.

A good reader uses all these strategies:-

- **Blending (using phonic knowledge)**

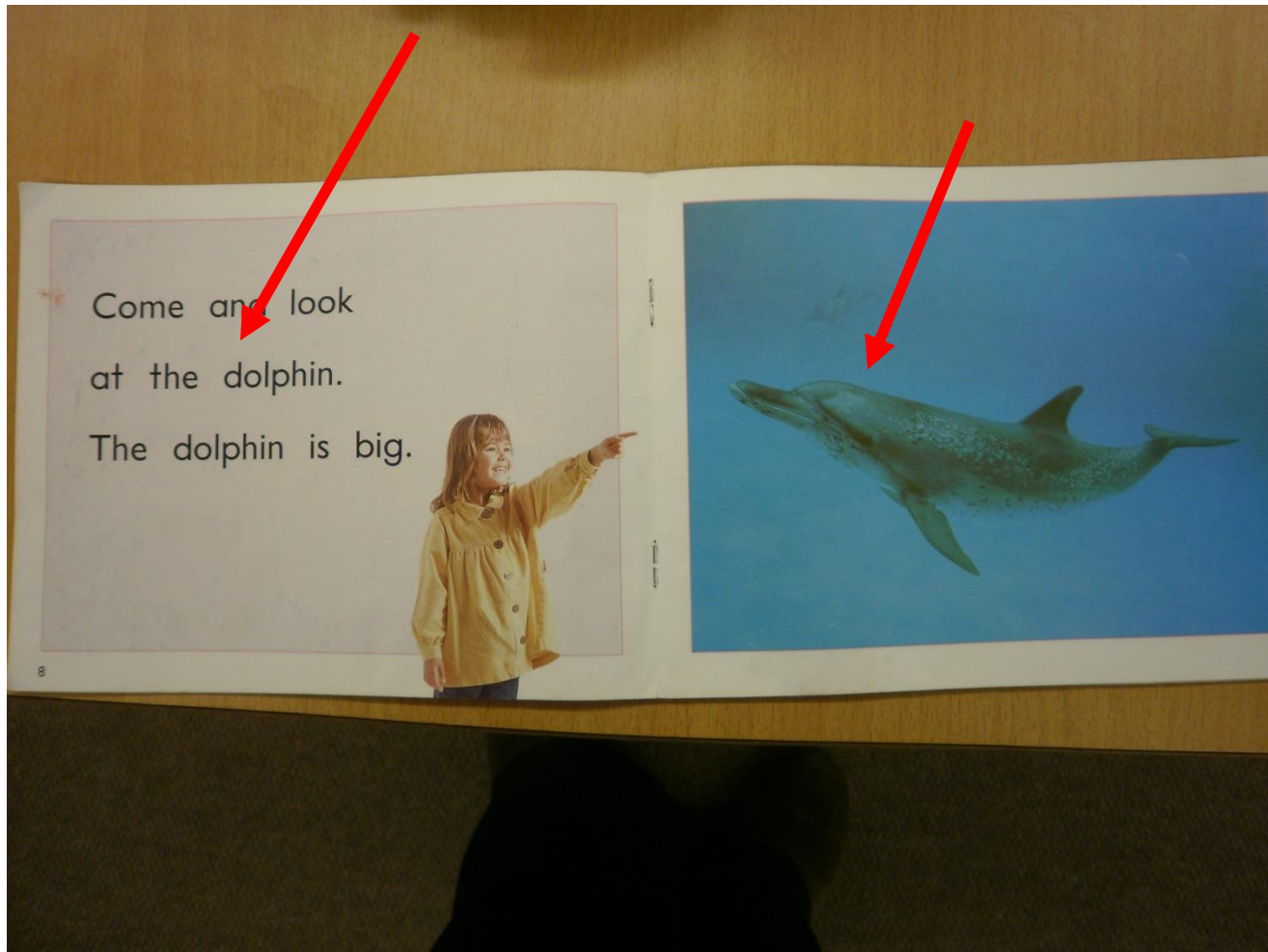
c a t = cat

Finger Tracking

- Peter Pointer can press sound buttons, segmenting word. Then blend the sounds together, stressing initial sound loudest. Continue getting a little quicker each time until you hear the word.
- Also helps children track where they are up to in the text.

- High frequency and tricky words
- Common words that will be increasingly recognised by sight
- Some are decodable like **and**
- Some aren't and are called "tricky" like **was** and **come**

- **Picture cues (context)**
- **Initial sounds**



Chunking (splitting big words into smaller more easily recognisable ones)

today

- Reading on to gain meaning, leave a difficult word and go back to it after decoding the rest of the sentence.
- Re-reading to gain meaning

A good reader uses all these strategies:-

- Blending (using phonic knowledge)
- High frequency and tricky words
- Picture cues (context)
- Initial sounds
- Chunking (splitting big words into smaller more easily recognisable ones - today etc)
- Reading on to gain meaning
- Re-reading to gain meaning

and finally.....

- Finger tracking - smoothly below the text
- Helps children become aware of the concept of a word
- Helps children keep their place

BUT

- Once a confident reader this can inhibit the flow of reading and use of expression.

“Once you can use it - lose it!!”

Websites

- <http://jollylearning.co.uk/gallery/jolly-phonics-actions/>
- **Starfall.com** <http://www.starfall.com/> select **Learn to read**
- Phonics Play <http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>
- Jolly phonics <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Djz82FBYiug>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OYCKBK9RTkU>
- Cbeebies <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/the-alphablocks-guide-to-phonics>