Module Eight: The use of various Alphabetic Code Charts and sensible pace for introducing the letter/sound correspondences

Module Eight: Part 1
a) Teaching the alphabetic code as a code
To consider the terminology used based on teaching a CODE, and how to present alphabetic code information to learners and their parents and carers
To understand the rationale of a generic structure for Alphabetic Code Charts and their potential variety and scope
To understand that Alphabetic Code Charts are important tools of accountability

Teach the alphabetic code AS A CODE and use terminology based on the alphabetic code

“It is what it is”
Code-based terminology is suitable for all ages and phonics is lifelong. Code-based language replaces common expressions such as:
“This letter makes the /a/ sound.”
“This letter says its name.”
“These letters say /sh/.”

“It is what it is”
“These letters say /sh/.”
This presents a babyish image for phonics.
Why persist in using infant language to teach the most complex alphabetic code in the world?

“It is what it is”
There are no specific ‘silent letters’ because all letters are silent!
Letters say nothing, and no letters make sounds!
“... the code for ...”

In *this* word, *these* letters are code for /ai/.

Repeat this to familiarise the phrase

It is very useful to refer to both letters and letter groups as *graphemes*.

Remember that the *alphabetic code* is the *reversible* relationship between the *phonemes* and the *graphemes*.

An *alphabetic code chart* is a very powerful way to illustrate this visually.

This version illustrates the *colour-coding* of the 12 units of work in PI

There is a webpage for:
- the *Early Years Starter Package*
- each unit of work 1 to 12
- additional resources ‘*Extras’*

**Phonics International Index**

Colour-coded to match the Alphabetic Code Chart

**Alphabetic Code Charts**

[Image]

www.alphabeticcodecharts.com

**Where can you find the Alphabetic Code Charts?**

Many versions via www.alphabeticcodecharts.com

Video clips to hear the sounds and see the spellings with example pictures and words on the PI website

Six starter charts in the *Early Years Starter Package*: three styles for units 1 to 5, three for units 1 to 6

Hard copy A4 ‘*Table Top’*, ‘*Giant*’ pull-up and hang down charts, A3 ‘*Tough Mats*’ available to buy
Versions of Alphabetic Code Charts

- Graphemes without key words
- EYSP: Pictures prompt the sounds
- EYSP: Pictures to show what the word examples ‘are’
- Various information and training charts
- International Phonetic Alphabet
- Various ‘mini’ charts

Versions of Alphabetic Code Charts

- Ready-made charts
- A4 Table Top Chart
- A3 Tough Mat
- Giant Charts

Advantages of The Alphabetic Code Chart

Knowledge:
The Alphabetic Code Chart demonstrates the rationale between speech sounds and letters or letter groups (graphemes or ‘spelling alternatives’).

- Shared knowledge to train/support the adults
- Work-in-progress for the learners

The Alphabetic Code Chart makes the code tangible

- capable of being touched or felt
- capable of being clearly grasped by the mind
- having a physical existence
Shared universally:

- **Use liberally**: e.g. in learners’ personal clip folders, send a copy home to parents, include it in the staff handbook, the school’s brochure and in the literacy policy (information and accountability).

- **Display** the large poster version of the *Alphabetic Code Chart* prominently in the school entrance and in every classroom.