

NEUROLOGICAL IMPRESS METHOD

Purpose

The goal of this method is to build reading rate and fluency. Use the method 10 to 15 minutes daily for a period of from 8 to 12 instructional hours. Heckelman (1966) noted that the method is ineffective if the student has not made some progress after 4 hours of total instruction. The method works effectively with a student whose listening comprehension is higher than his/her present level of word recognition skill.

Procedure

1. Select high-interest reading materials that are slightly below the student's grade level.
2. Sit side-by-side with the student slightly in front.
3. Read material with the student in unison. In beginning sessions, read in a louder voice and at a slightly faster pace than the student. Reread initial lines or paragraphs until a normal, fluid reading pattern is established. Encourage the student not to worry about mistakes.
4. While reading, track the words with your finger. Later, as skill develops, have the student track the line of print with his/her finger.
5. By the end of eight 15-minute sessions, increase the difficulty level of the material. At this time, you may use materials at the student's reading frustration level.

Sources:

Heckelman, R. G. (1966). Using the neurological impress reading technique. *Academic Therapy*, 1, 235-239.

Heckelman, R. G. (1986). N.I.M. revisited. *Academic Therapy*, 21, 411-420.