

The S.M.T. Method

The *Simultaneous Multisensory Teaching* method (S.M.T.), based on the Orton system, is a language re-education method developed to meet the needs of students of all ages, who need a more thorough knowledge of the structure of written language, and a solid understanding of the association of sounds and symbols, before learning how to apply the concepts and rules of written language.

The objective of the S.M.T. method is to teach reading, writing and spelling, with an emphasis on reading accuracy in the early stages, followed by thorough comprehension of written language and its structures. The material is presented in short sequential steps to help students develop self-confidence. Students progress at their own pace.

To be of practical use by most teachers and parents, this method entails detailed lesson plans that outline the pedagogical objectives and expected outcomes for each step. The manual includes explanatory notes on the causes and effects of dyslexia to give teachers insight into the dyslexic person's perspective.

S.M.T. differs from other multisensory teaching approaches. It incorporates the development of phonologic and phonemic awareness in the following learning techniques and strategies:

- visual and auditory discrimination;
- bimanual reading in Braille dots to develop a "tactile vision";
- direct teaching of non-image words;
- an emphasis on diction;
- the etymology of English words.

Advantages of S.M.T

- It can be taught to students of all ages and all grade levels.

It allows much earlier intervention for dyslexic children, even if they have not been formally diagnosed, because it can be taught as early as grade 1.

Although developed specifically for dyslexic students, this method can be used for all grade 1 children to prevent reading failure and to reduce the need for remedial help later on.

Teaching the S.M.T. to the entire class can reduce the cost of specialized teaching for a limited number of students at one time.

Each lesson is detailed and meticulously prepared, and could be used immediately by most elementary school teachers.