

To whom it may concern:

Last year I became aware of a Swedish software programme for literacy called Lexion. I was offered the opportunity of being involved in the 'normalizing' for the Lexion tests. Over the past year I have become very familiar with the programme and use it on a regular basis with students who have Special Educational Needs.

It is an enormous programme and I am constantly discovering more about it. There is an excellent diagnostic test that can be easily used to create exercises for students. In addition there are groups of activities that can be accessed for various curriculum levels or age groups (E.G. Year 2, term 3). These activities can be e-mailed or copied to disks for students to do at home.

There are a huge variety of exercises that compliment other methods of teaching. For example I use 'Phonographix' with some of my students and Lexion can be used as a tool to give students an opportunity to practice what they have learnt. The students enjoy the work and constantly ask to use the programme.

The exercises that I use most frequently include the grammar (verb, noun or adjective) and the spelling (pain or pane) on the second row. However, I have tried out and used nearly every icon on the L drive at one stage or other. The hangman exercise is one that the students always request and I have used this successfully by putting in their own spelling words. In my opinion this is one of the greatest assets of the system. By being able to make your own exercises within the categories makes it incredibly versatile. I have used many other IT programmes to enhance learning, but this is the first one that I have been able to contribute to as effectively.

The programme can be used with all levels of Special Educational Needs. I am currently introducing the rest of my department to the activities that are available. As with any new programme it takes a while to understand and incorporate it into the lesson plans, but as yet I have not found anyone who does not think it is useful and exciting.

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