

Three phases of early literacy development (Frith)

Logographic phase

Basic sight vocabulary - high frequency words, or words with special significance

Words recognised holistically - from overall shape

Similar looking words confused

No understanding of sound/letter correspondence

Alphabetic Phase

Recognition of sound/letter correspondence

Decoding and encoding take place

Phonic knowledge used

Pupil can spell simple, regular words

Errors are phonetic (coff/cough)

Lack of sophisticated knowledge of word structure

Reading slow and laboured - limited fluency

Orthographic Phase

Rapid whole word recognition - holistic

Words become sight vocabulary

Reading fluency achieved

Understands sophisticated spelling patterns