

## Precision teaching using a probe sheet

Precision teaching is a quick activity that will help children to learn whole words. It is particularly useful when helping children to learn high frequency words.

- Select a list of between 5 to 10 words, depending on the pupil's level and ability, but ensure that they know wither 2 out of the 5 or 3 / 4 out of the 10.
- Teach the child the words using multi sensory techniques - flashcards, plastic letters, modelling with playdough etc.
- Complete a grid containing all the words randomly placed and repeated several times.
- Discuss a realistic target for the child to get right in one minute.
- In one minute, time the child to see how many words they can say correctly.
- Plot the scores on a graph showing the number that they scored correctly. The child could also colour in squares showing the number they scored correct. The activity should show quick success .
- When the child hits fluency three days running, you move on to next set of items.
- If the score does not go up then either reduce the number being learnt or include extra teaching in the activity. The SNIP literacy programme provides visual activities to help learn High frequency words:  
[http://www.snip-newsletter.co.uk/pdfs/downloads/literacy\\_programme\\_1.pdf](http://www.snip-newsletter.co.uk/pdfs/downloads/literacy_programme_1.pdf)
- This system can be used in other curriculum areas: times tables, science, number bonds, mfl

