



The Shannon Trust  
Teaching Prisoners to Read

## THE SHANNON READING PLAN TOE BY TOE

- A simple scheme motivating literate prisoners to educate their illiterate peers using the Toe by Toe Manual.
- A structured partially phonic system in which a completely illiterate individual can learn to read in four to six months
- The Shannon Trust has only three rules:
  - The mentoring is done one to one
  - The lessons are no more than twenty minutes each
  - The lessons are taught a minimum of five times a week
- If the above rules are followed The Shannon Trust will provide the manuals for free
- The mentor is encouraged by the responsibility placed on his shoulders and the reward of being able to teach someone to read and change their life
- The mentee in turn is motivated by discovering that he CAN read and often enters into further education
- It has also been shown to improve behaviour, appearance and attitude
- We ask prisons to facilitate the lessons by providing the time and place for the lessons to take place
- Quite often a co-ordinator Mentor is appointed from amongst the respected inmates and he takes over the daily running of the scheme
- All those participating should be volunteers and whilst we do not suggest that people are paid for their participation we would ask that they do not lose money (from the workshops etc)
- We ask that everyone involved enjoys their participation with the scheme
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