

GRADUAL DEVELOPMENT OF READING ABILITY OF PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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Abstract:

Reading is a fundamental skill that forms the foundation of lifelong learning. Developing reading abilities in primary school students is a gradual process that requires appropriate strategies, patience, and an encouraging environment. As each child learns at their own pace, it is essential to adopt methods that promote reading in fun and engaging ways. The speed-reading technique is an effective tool for gradually developing the reading ability of primary school students. This technique enhances not only students' reading speed but also their comprehension, vocabulary expansion, and concentration skills. Through this approach, students' interest in learning increases, helping them achieve academic success.

Key words: foundational literacy, speed reading, teachers, parents, students, technology, libraries, role-playing, sentences, Print-rich environment, story-telling, comprehension skills, digital tools.

Introduction

Reading is a vital skill that forms the foundation for a child's academic success and personal growth. For primary school students, mastering reading is particularly important as it influences their ability to understand subjects like mathematics, science, and social studies. Developing this skill requires careful planning, patience, and strategies tailored to young learners' needs. In primary school, children are at a critical stage of learning where their brains are rapidly developing. Strong reading skills help improve their vocabulary, language comprehension, and overall cognitive abilities. Moreover, confident readers are better equipped to participate in class activities, engage in discussions, and express their thoughts clearly. On the other hand, children who struggle with reading may face difficulties in other subjects, which can lead to frustration and low self-esteem. Therefore, building strong reading foundations early is crucial for ensuring their long-term academic success.

There are some effective strategies for developing reading skills. The first one is creating a print-rich environment. Primary school classrooms should be filled with printed materials such as posters, labels, and word walls. For example, labeling classroom objects like "door," "window," and "clock" helps children associate written words with real-world objects. Such constant exposure helps young learners recognize letters, expand their vocabulary, and improve comprehension. Another one is establishing classroom libraries and reading corners. Creating a cozy and inviting reading space in the classroom encourages children to explore books on their own. Classroom libraries should offer colorful, age-appropriate books that cater to students' interests. Teachers can also create a hanging library by clipping books to a string, making them easily accessible. To ensure variety, books can be replaced every two weeks to keep students engaged. Digital tools like the ReadAlong app provide interactive learning experiences that help improve reading skills. Through gamified features, children practice pronunciation, build fluency, and develop comprehension skills. Since this app can function offline, parents and teachers can control screen time while ensuring children access safe content. Primary school students are more likely to enjoy reading when they can choose books based on their interests. Allowing them to explore topics they love — whether it's animals, fairy tales, or adventure stories — boosts their motivation and fosters a positive attitude toward reading. For primary school students, both teachers and parents play crucial roles in nurturing reading skills. Teachers can organize group reading sessions, storytelling activities, and role-play games to build students' confidence. Parents, meanwhile, can support reading habits at home by reading aloud, discussing stories, and encouraging their children to ask questions about what they read.

An elementary grade speed reading is reading that promotes conscious comprehension. A reading pace that matches the pace of speaking is a normal speed. Reading too fast and reading too slowly make it difficult to understand the content of the text. Reading speed is determined by the number of words I read per minute. An effective way to develop speed reading skills in primary grades is working on the text. First of all, the child should be introduced to the text. Preparation for speed reading of the text consists of following the following. The development of speed reading skills in primary school students is achieved through various

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exercises. Such exercises include "Find the Word," "Pay Attention and Observe," "Collect Words Starting with Vowels," and "Forward and Reverse Reading" activities. "Find the Word," "Pay Attention and Observe" type of exercises includes finding the required word from the text, giving a title to the text, finding and underlining words that start with vowels from the text, finding words that start with consonants from the text, identifying and separating incomplete sentences in the text, observing and reading the text quickly through a transparent sheet, identifying and separating incomplete words from the text, assigning tasks that focus on directing attention to the text and developing observation skills.

In "Finding the required word from the text" exercise, students are asked to find words that start with vowels from the text within 1 minute and underline them with a pen. The student who finds the most words is considered the winner. This sharpens their word recognition skills and reinforces phonics knowledge. When students do identifying and separating incomplete sentences in the text, students read the text and identify sentences that are incomplete or unfinished. This task encourages better understanding of sentence structure. These activities are highly effective for improving key reading skills in young learners. Exercises like finding specific words or identifying those that start with vowels or consonants enhance word recognition and develop scanning abilities. Tasks that involve reading through a transparent sheet or giving a title to the text encourage focus, comprehension, and critical thinking. Identifying incomplete words or sentences helps students understand sentence structure and improves their vocabulary. By practicing these tasks regularly, students naturally develop faster reading skills while maintaining comprehension. These activities also make learning more engaging and enjoyable, boosting students' confidence and motivation. When applied consistently, they contribute significantly to improved reading fluency and overall academic success.

Conclusion

Developing reading skills in primary school students requires a combination of effective strategies, engaging activities, and a supportive learning environment. By making reading fun, encouraging independence, and using interactive methods, educators and parents can help young learners become confident, enthusiastic readers. With these efforts, children can develop strong literacy skills that will serve them throughout their education and beyond. The use of targeted exercises such as "Find the Word," "Pay Attention and Observe," and identifying incomplete sentences plays a significant role in improving word recognition, comprehension, and focus. These activities not only strengthen essential reading skills but also make the learning process more engaging and enjoyable. By incorporating these techniques consistently, educators can effectively support students in building reading fluency, boosting their confidence, and achieving academic success.

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