

HOW TO INCULCATE READING HABITS OF CHILDREN IN SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

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Abstract *As a librarian, whenever I have meetings with parents, teachers, or my relatives and neighbors, I am often bombarded with questions such as “How do we get our kid to read books?”, “Can you suggest some good books for him/her?”, “He/she is always busy with video games and social media, how do we build their reading habit?”. I smile at the innocence of these questions yet the seriousness of the issue. This is what I thought to write on this particular topic that “how to inculcate reading habit among the children” for their overall development. May this paper will help those parents who are very curious about their child’s reading.*

Keywords: *Inculcate Reading, Various Activity, Read Aloud, Role of School, Coral Reading, Personal Reading, Reading Skills, Group Reading*

INTRODUCTION

It is very important to develop reading habits in the child as this inculcates Positive imagination, creative thinking in the child, makes the brain more creative. Reading habits will help children become stronger readers and students. The first step is developing positive reading habits with your child. This paper is my personal experience as librarian from last 18 years in a school.

How to Create Reading Environment in School

Creating reading environment in school we have to do the following steps accordingly

- Principal and teachers must understand the impact of reading on student achievement and importance of reading culture.
- School should provide library services and its resources.
- Displaying Quotes about reading in school corridors.

“A Home without a book is like Tree without Birds”

“Live Learn Library”

“A book is a gift you can open again and again”

The above are the quotes we can display in school corridor and this will develop reading habits in children as we can see that the different quotes students will read and this will help them to understand the importance of reading.

- Displaying notice of reading events, challenges or incentives in school, visiting authors, book awards, or awarding the best reader of the week or month, awarding the best story written by children.
- The school can organize different reading events and this can be displaying in school notice boards. These will encourage the children and develop motive to participate and develop their reading habits.
- School can display photos of children reading, staff reading and other reading role model as we can see in the picture.



- Principal should recommended “book of the week”
- In school corridor and notice board we could display
- Sign pointing to the library, footprints heading in that direction, how many steps to the library etc.

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- notice with the library opening hours and students on duty in the library.
- The library quiz of the week.
- Information about the new books coming to the library, and events coming up.

So library as a resource center can be very useful for developing reading skills, ensuring that in the school first and foremost there should be well organized library in the school premises. The library should be well-resourced and well used for any events. It is also important teachers collaborate with librarian and the library is used an essential resource for a literary program of the school and it will definitely inculcate the love for reading among the students. It is more important that the students should read and the teachers should also read with the students. So first the teachers should read and the students will follow him/her. If we want to inculcate the reading habits among the students, than we must read books in the library.

Read not only for pleasure but also to gather information, knowledge, understanding, instructions and even connecting with others. When the children see us reading they too will develop these habits and start reading themselves.

So, led by example our student pickup most of their habits from us and it is very important as teachers to be careful to inculcate positive attitude towards important habits such as reading literacy and accruing knowledge, discuss what we have read, first the students are reading and with them the teachers are also reading. Teachers have their experience in reading so discuss what you have read. Discuss with the children what she/he is reading. It may not be only story book always. Teachers must discuss in class similarities between stories or events that they have read about. See what the child likes to read (particular genre or author) an encourage him/her to cultivate it. Develop the culture of discussion in groups in the classroom to broaden the children's understanding. Develop positive environment in the class so that the child feels to ask any question related to what he is reading.

Share Your Experience About Reading

Discuss about books and magazines that, you have read. Discuss how the books characters and authors, influence the lives of young people and how it shapes the idea of an individual. Encourage the child to read books and articles in his or her native language. This helps them to develop their cultural identity and class builds strong language skills. If reading skills are developed in the native languages they will automatically transfer in to English language, although it is a misconception that, if the child is reading in native language its may hampers his/her learning of English but that is myth.

Let Children Choose

Let them choose what they want to read (initial monitoring of the content to be done by the teacher or a librarian) instead of dictating what to read let the child to choose his/her own reading material. As a teacher it is very important to keep an eye on the reading level of the child but not to force the concepts what you think he or she should be reading. Let your child choose his or her own reading material and be sure to be there to support them out if they need help.

Reward Them

Keep a visible record of achievement of the child as this is a very successful way to motivate your child to develop reading habits. Teacher can develop games out of the books that the child has to read by deciding on the number of books he or she has to read to reach the top position. The game can include all the students of the class and will also help in making reading a shared experience for the whole class. These methods can also be used to introduce your child to different genres of books.

Go Beyond Books

Development of reading does not necessarily have to come only from reading books. Make the child take note of small information on the notice board. Encourage them to read all kinds of advertisement. Ask them to read banners and other boards they see while coming to school.

Use Drama

Children love nothing more than acting and trying out different roles. If your child is a reluctant reader then encourage him or her to play a character from a fictional task, as this may help to motivate them to read a text. As a habit, reading has to be developed consciously by the parents and teachers during the early years of a child. Once this habit is inculcated then children tend to further develop tastes, preferences, genres and authors on their own. Once your child understands the connections between reading and other wider historical, political content of reading they will orderly develop love and appreciation for reading.

Reading for Pleasure

Christina Clark and Kate Rumbold note that reading pleasure can be described as an act of play which allows us to experience different worlds in our imagination and a creative and active interactive process. Reading for pleasure means any reading is primarily for enjoyment. It encompasses a wide range of genres and publications, and includes both fiction and nonfiction. Reading for pleasure means voluntary during school time or in free time. It can be a powerful tool in all age groups and amongst all level of readers.

For Developing Reading for Pleasure at School

- Appoint a facilitator
- Allow children to make personal choice.
- Make space, place and time for reading.
- Have excellent book provision and displays.
- Conduct book talk session in any time in school premises.
- Read aloud the book to the children.
- Opportunity for open ended discussion, sharing of response to be given.
- Increase opportunity for looking and talking about the books.
- Creating engaged readers involves commitment in developing a school wide reading culture that actively encourage, supports and model reading or pleasure.
- Fluent and reflecting reading improves literacy, social skills and well-being and enables independent reading.
- The outcome of reading are shown more strongly if reading is enjoyable in the first instance so reading for pleasure is so important.
- Reading should not be done just in school it need to be an part of our everyday lives and at all ages.

Supporting Learners to Develop Their Reading Skills

Reading is not simply a system of developing word or deciphering combination of letters on the page or screen but an active process and readers will have a purpose for reading.

Teaching reading: start where your learner wants, what do they feel comfortable and confident in reading as part of their daily lives whether it Signs, Posters, Leaflets, Manus, Newspaper or Magazines discuss these with your group. Reading is something we all do every day, it not just classroom activity. All of us probably have a point where our reading skills will challenged, so it can be helpful for learners to see confidence in reading as a spectrum that we are all on.

Use a variety of texts to appeal to everyone from factual newspaper articles to TV or play scripts or poetry, whatever text you and your learners chose, discuss it first so that it has context and becomes familiar. Then anticipate difficult vocabulary and address this first. Warming up learners by introducing a text will help in better comprehension of the texts, especially if it is quite challenging.

Group Reading

Reading together on a group can be very supportive and can be more beneficial than learners working alone. It can improve reading comprehension and confidence

Paired Reading

Paired reading can also be very helpful children feel more confident in pair as compare to bigger group.

Coral Reading and Performance Reading

Reading as a group can take the pressure off individuals either following a printed text or from a slide. Teachers can use the techniques of paired reading where individuals signal if they want to read alone.

Repeated Reading

Reading the same passage again and again over a short period fluency will achieved. It will develop the all skills related to the reading.

Some Ideas on Reading

- Reading should make as much sense as listening. Understanding the text sometimes requires going beyond the text.
- Reading is equates to constructing a meaning and meanings are not always similar.
- At secondary level reader is not dependent upon identification of war for understanding.
- There must be a stage in the process of reading in which the readers employ meaning to assist in the identification of individual words.
- Reading would become a laborious task if the reader blindly makes effort to identify one word after another with no prior insights.
- It is also found that reading cannot be achieved step wise or in a structured manner. The reader's eyes may rest on one or all the words but brain responds to words in meaningful clusters.
- Slow reading is not efficient reading because it puts unnecessary load on the memory bank and leads to confusion.
- Just a learner, perceive spoken language by paying attention to meaning not the sound of the word similarly independent learner always try to bring meaning to print and pay least attention to individual word and their meanings. This brings our focus to the importance of the context in which the words carry messages.

Explicit strategies for supporting reading comprehension skills, skilled readers may need help with comprehension strategies that skilled readers use automatically explicit comprehension strategies include-

Comprehension Monitoring

Use technique to check understanding through questioning asking learners to summaries section of the text etc.,

Graphic Organizers

Use charts and diagrams (e.g. Spider diagram and flow charts to represent ideas and information found in text.)

Story Structure

Develop awareness of features of storytelling including plots, characters, setting etc.

Question Generating and Asking

Encourage readers to make inferences from reading, and to understand that some questions require background knowledge from their own knowledge rather than from within the text.

SUMMARIZING

Identify the topic and main idea of a text.

Benefit of Reading:

Following are some of the benefit of reading:

- Readers show high self-esteem and greater self-acceptance.
- Readers are more capable of planning and prioritizing.
- Readers show greater capacity for empathy.
- Reader has their settler understanding of other people's feelings.
- Readers show stronger and more engaged awareness of social issues and of cultural diversity than non reader.
- Reader has more general knowledge.
- Reader has deeper understanding and respect for different cultures.

- Readers show higher levels of creativity than nonreaders.
- Reader has better emotional health empathy and well-being.

Therefore we can summarize that practicing the above a school library or a librarian can develop the reading habits of children and inculcate the love for reading among the children.

CONCLUSION

These days, children have a lot of pastimes like internet, online games, videos, etc. Parents are worried that children are not reading enough. So, it is important to inculcate the reading habit in children from a young age. Famous children author Roald Dahl rightly says, "I have a passion for teaching kids to become readers, to become comfortable with a book, not daunted. Books shouldn't be daunting, they should be funny, exciting and wonderful; and learning to be a reader gives a terrific advantage." This pare is my Personal experience in my library and I got a tremendous result out of this practice. I have applied all those steps and get a good result and some of my students are very fond of reading and some of them are trying to write a story books by themselves.

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