

IMPORTANCE OF MANIPULATIVE READING MATERIALS

by:

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The term "manipulative materials" refers to any physical objects that can be used by students to investigate a concept in a dynamic and hands-on manner. Manipulatives are most often linked with the instruction of mathematical concepts to learners, but they are also crucial in the development of reading and writing abilities. Learners of all ages can benefit from the manipulatives since they allow for a more concrete, and experiential approach to education. They engage the interest of learners in reading and writing and make the process more fun. Studies have indicated that learners who engage in hands-on activities while listening to a message or lesson are more likely to retain specific details of what they have heard.

Reading is important for developing thought in many different parts of the brain. To begin with, reading requires mental processing of the words you encounter. Reading also engages your skills of analysis, memory, and the expansion of your imagination. Using manipulative materials, reading will be more exciting and engaging for every learner.

Studies have also shown that learners learn more and retain more of what they read or hear when they are given opportunities to actively participate in the content they are absorbing, as reported in Language Magazine. Manipulative materials allow learners to "read" for themselves, while also serving as examples and providing access to tangible resources that might facilitate their understanding of the content. Learners can explore the main purpose and subject, recounting stories with detail, sequencing, comparing and contrasting, and more through the use of manipulatives as part of their literacy education.

According to an article on hands-on learning, "the most efficient method of teaching should take advantage of the fact that children are naturally observers and explorers." (RAFT, 2009).

Learners can have a more engaging and visual experience with the writing process (planning, drafting, and rewriting) when they employ hands-on figures. Manipulatives, as was previously said, can be useful in igniting interest. Performance in writing can also benefit from this kind of enthusiasm. Learners benefit from the tactile experience provided by manipulatives, which in turn inspires them to provide greater specificity in their writing. They also greatly benefit from this as they organize their thoughts in preparation for writing. Finally, the learners are encouraged to work together and communicate their ideas to their peers and teachers in exchange for feedback and further ideas through the use of shared manipulatives.

Make reading a habit. Learning through play and dynamic activities will make all the difference for a learner's academic skills.

References:

[https://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1010&context=honors
theses](https://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1010&context=honors_theses)

<https://homeeducator.com/play-teaching-reading-writing/>