

THE BENEFITS OF MANIPULATIVE READING MATERIALS TO YOUNG LEARNERS

by:

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Nicole McNeil's research (2007) proved that young learners do not come into the world with the capacity for abstract thought. Instead, they must create abstract concepts through their interactions with concrete objects in their environment. When learners are given various opportunities to connect with physical objects, it supports them to gain complex understandings of the world around them. Physical action and interconnectedness with concrete entities facilitate learning by not only providing an additional channel for conveying information, but also by activating real-world knowledge and improving memory.

Literacy is a significant area where manipulatives can be the key to help readers develop stronger phonics, fluency, and comprehension skills. For young brains, learning to read is a fantastic experience, and manipulative reading materials' tactile appeal is the first step to entering this enchanted empire. These concrete resources produce a symphony of interaction, elevating the experience from instructive to genuinely engrossing.

Few of the word-building resources is Letter Dice. With a use of foam letter dice, students roll it and create different CVC words. They use the foam dice to form multiple CVC words. The fun side is that it eliminates a ton of noise and change it to excitement while learning. Bingo Dabbers. Bingo dabbers is another stimulating exercise that makes learning CVC words a blast for kids! They can use them for colorful CVC bingo dabber conditioning similar as word family dab, real vs. nonsense word dab, and more. Letter Linking Cubes are also great manipulative for teaching CVC words. They are colored red

and blue to differentiate vowels and consonants and also include uppercase and lowercase letters. Picture cubes are also explored so students can practice building, spelling, and reading a variety of CVC words. Adding Play Dough to any learning experience automatically makes it more engaging for students. Their fine motor skills are enhanced as they shape letters and build CVC words out of play dough on CVC word mats. A Sound Wall, an effective reading instrument to all grade level, uses a chart that has all of the different sounds that letters make. Learners can use the sound wall to sound out words and exercise their phonics skills. Mini Whiteboards are classic manipulatives that every teacher usually has. They are basic but that makes them so easy to use. Students spell sounds or words, practice writing words, or use it to follow along during whole class lessons. The use of flashcards such as Picture My Picture Verbs Flash Cards. These two-sided flashcards feature a picture and the other side is the name of the action the picture depicts. These are worthy handy stuffs designed to improve language skills leading to advanced aptitude in communication and day-to-day dialogues.

A classroom filled with lively conversation from students, the shuffling of word cards, the rustle of letter tiles, children who confidently touch, move, and engage with the language building blocks with manipulative reading tools are indeed worthy to envision. Having phonemic awareness, building vocabulary and using interactive word cards, flashcards, and entertaining activities are undoubtedly enjoyable for young learners.

Manipulative reading materials embrace variability and offer a wide range of options to suit different types of learning. They add a captivating element that turns the exciting journey of teaching children to read into an engaging experience for both educators and students. Not only do these concrete resources provide the groundwork for fundamental reading abilities, but they also bring excitement and wonder to the process of learning. Our aspiring readers' hearts and minds are permanently altered by

the pulsating, dynamic world of manipulative reading materials, where literacy becomes an active, real-life adventure.

References:

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