

STRENGTHENING READING PRACTICES IN THE CLASSROOM

by:

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“Reading for pleasure is the single biggest factor in success later in life, outside of an education. Study after study has shown that those children who read for pleasure are the ones who are most likely to fulfil their ambitions. If your child reads, they will succeed - it's that simple.” – Bali Rai

Reading is not only a fundamental skill but also a gateway to knowledge, imagination, and critical thinking. It is through reading that students are exposed to different perspectives, cultures, and ideas. Reading is one of the four main language skills alongside listening, speaking and writing. Reading is usually the third language skill that you learn in your native language - it comes after listening and speaking.

Reading practices in the classroom help improve students' literacy skills. By regularly engaging with texts, students develop their vocabulary, comprehension abilities, and fluency. These skills are essential for success in all academic subjects as well as in everyday life.

Furthermore, reading practices foster a love for learning and curiosity among students. When they are exposed to various genres and authors, they discover new interests and passions. This can lead to a lifelong habit of reading for pleasure and personal growth.

Moreover, reading practices promote critical thinking skills. As students analyze texts and make connections between ideas, they learn how to evaluate information

critically. They become better at forming opinions based on evidence rather than relying solely on personal biases or assumptions.

In addition to these cognitive benefits, reading practices also have social-emotional advantages. Through literature, students can explore different emotions and experiences vicariously. This helps them develop empathy towards others and enhances their emotional intelligence.

Incorporating regular reading practices in the classroom is crucial for the holistic development of students. It not only improves their literacy skills but also fosters a love for learning, enhances critical thinking abilities, and promotes social-emotional growth. Therefore, educators must prioritize creating an environment that encourages frequent engagement with diverse texts to ensure that every student has access to the transformative power of reading.

Twinkl (2023) What is Reading. <https://www.twinkl.com.ph/teaching-wiki/reading>