

ENHANCING READING COMPREHENSION THROUGH THE FULLER APPROACH: AN EFFECTIVE TEACHING STRATEGY

by:

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In 2021, the Philippines had a fantastic literacy rate of 99.27%. However, the World Bank stated in 2022 that 90 percent of Filipino children aged 10 were categorized as "learning poor," which meant they couldn't read or comprehend a basic paragraph at their age. The World Bank defines "learning poverty" as the inability to read and comprehend simple text before the age of ten. This underlines a crucial point: while teaching key skills such as reading, writing, and arithmetic is necessary, it is also critical to ensure that children gain the capacity to comprehend and apply what they read (Lu, 2024).

Reading is essential in everyone's life since it allows us to learn not only via experience but also by comprehending and pronouncing what we read correctly (Xie et al., 2017). The Fuller Approach is a systematic teaching strategy designed to enhance reading comprehension by building a strong foundation in phonemic awareness and vocabulary development. By focusing on decoding skills and contextual understanding, it ensures that learners can read fluently and grasp the meaning of the text effectively. This foundational approach is particularly beneficial for young or struggling readers, as it simplifies the process of learning to read and reduces anxiety associated with complex texts.

Furthermore, the Fuller Approach efficiently combines the alphabet, phonics, and whole word approaches to improve word recognition abilities (Berdera et al., 2012). This approach stresses that new readers must first learn the names and forms of the alphabet letters. Furthermore, having a significant vocabulary is essential for ensuring that the words used in Fuller sessions are relevant to the student. This is why teachers should

incorporate actual objects and visual aids into their lessons to improve comprehension. Examples should start with a single consonant to guarantee clarity and simplicity for young readers. The Fuller Technique for word recognition in English is a popular approach for improving word attack abilities. It is an essential component in the Four-Pronged Approach to Teaching Beginning Reading. This strategy uses the alphabet, phonics, and whole-word tactics to increase word recognition. Before using the Fuller Technique, children must first learn to recognize and form each alphabet letter. They should also be able to discriminate between vowels and consonants, as well as recognize the sounds produced by each letter (Tibi et al., 2021).

When teaching letters to beginner readers, the Fuller Approach follows a prescribed order. Instruction begins with the letter Mm, then Ss, Ll, Tt, Hh, Cc, Rr, Nn, Bb, Gg, Pp, Dd, Jj, Ww, Vv, Zz, and Yy. The letter X appears as a final sound in words such as mix, repair, six, and ax, and its pronunciation is expressly taught. The letter K has the same sound as C, which might be confusing for beginning readers when it is introduced, as relatively few initial words begin with K. Therefore, thorough instruction is important to avoid misunderstanding (Badillo et al., 2020).

Research has demonstrated the efficacy of the Fuller Approach in improving literacy rates and comprehension skills, particularly among learners with reading challenges. Its structured and holistic framework fosters a deeper understanding of texts, making it an invaluable tool for educators. By consistently applying this method, teachers can create a more inclusive and effective learning environment, equipping students with the critical reading skills necessary for academic success.

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