

LISTENING TO LEARN: THE POWER OF DICTATION IN ENHANCING STUDENTS' READING SKILLS

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Some classic teaching methods still work well for developing core literacy skills, even with the quick adoption of educational technology. One such strategy is dictation, a tried-and-true technique that is still useful and successful in improving early-grade students' reading abilities. Even though it's sometimes thought of as being out of date, dictation combines writing, spelling, auditory processing, and comprehension in a way that helps students develop critical reading skills.

In dictation, spoken language is listened to and precisely recorded. With this method, kids are encouraged to pay attention to phonemes, identify high-frequency words, and use what they've learned about sentence structure. Dictation can help language learners by strengthening the link between spoken and written forms, which promotes better vocabulary retention and reading fluency (McCrocklin, 2019). These advantages are particularly beneficial for kindergarteners through sixth graders as they build their foundation in reading.

Dictation is made both entertaining and instructive by a variety of organized activities. The ability to recognize frequent words and phrase patterns is strengthened through daily sentence dictation (Rohadi, 2020). Using brief passages from children's books, story-based dictation enhances listening comprehension while providing context and aiding in understanding. Peer-to-peer dictation encourages collaboration and the development of oral language skills as students take turns reading and writing. Picture dictation, which blends literacy and imagination for younger pupils, improves comprehension and

creativity by having teachers explain a scenario or picture while students write words or express them.

The effectiveness of dictation is demonstrated in actual classroom environments. For example, a Grade 2 teacher at one public elementary school reported that more than 75% of her students demonstrated measurable improvements in spelling accuracy and reading fluency following two months of using organized dictation sessions. Students' comprehension of language usage and patterns is strengthened by the regularity and instant feedback provided by dictation.

In order to successfully use dictation, teachers should adapt the material to the reading levels of their pupils and change up the tasks to prevent boredom. It works best when combined with vocabulary drills, guided reading, and phonics. pleasant feedback and encouragement also foster a pleasant learning atmosphere, which keeps students motivated and involved (Salve, 2024).

In summary, dictation is an old traditional technique, yet its instructional value is still very relevant today. It can bridge the gap between literacy and listening and help kids become proficient, self-assured readers when applied effectively.

References:

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