

THE ROLE OF CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES IN PROMOTING READING LITERACY

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Abstract: Reading literacy is a fundamental skill that forms the basis for lifelong learning and academic success. This article explores the significant role of classroom activities in developing and enhancing students' reading literacy. It highlights how interactive and engaging tasks such as group reading, storytelling, discussions, and comprehension exercises can motivate learners, improve vocabulary acquisition, and strengthen critical thinking skills.

Keywords: reading literacy, classroom activities, learner engagement, reading comprehension, language development.

Аннотация: Читательская грамотность является фундаментальным навыком, который лежит в основе обучения на протяжении всей жизни и академического успеха. В данной статье рассматривается важная роль учебных занятий в классе в развитии и совершенствовании читательской грамотности учащихся. Подчеркивается, что интерактивные и увлекательные виды деятельности — такие как групповое чтение, рассказывание историй, обсуждения и упражнения на понимание текста — могут мотивировать учащихся, способствовать обогащению словарного запаса и укреплять навыки критического мышления.

Ключевые слова: читательская грамотность, учебная деятельность в классе, активность учащихся, понимание текста, развитие языка.

Annotatsiya: O'qish savodxonligi — umr bo'yi o'rganish va akademik muvaffaqiyatning asosi bo'lgan muhim ko'nikmadir. Ushbu maqolada o'quvchilarning o'qish savodxonligini rivojlantirish va mustahkamlashda sinf mashg'ulotlarining ahamiyatli roli o'rganiladi. Maqolada guruhda o'qish, hikoya aytish, muhokama va matnni tushunish mashqlari kabi interaktiv va qiziqarli faoliyat turlari o'quvchilarni rag'batlantirishi, so'z boyligini kengaytirishi hamda tanqidiy fikrlash ko'nikmalarini mustahkamlashi ta'kidlanadi.

Kalit so'zlar: O'qish savodxonligi, sinfdagi mashg'ulotlar, o'quvchilarning faolligi, matnni tushunish, til rivoji.

Introduction: Reading literacy plays an essential role in a student's educational journey and overall intellectual growth. It refers to the ability to understand, interpret, and critically analyze written texts. In today's world, where information is constantly expanding, students must develop strong reading skills to access, evaluate, and use knowledge effectively. Teachers play a crucial role in this process, as they are responsible for creating a classroom environment that encourages active participation and curiosity about reading. One of the most effective ways to enhance reading literacy is through engaging and purposeful classroom activities. These activities not only make reading enjoyable but also improve comprehension, vocabulary, and motivation.

The Importance of Classroom Activities in Reading Literacy: Classroom activities serve as a bridge between theoretical learning and practical language use. Through structured reading exercises, students can learn how to analyze texts, make inferences, and connect ideas. Activities such as group discussions, reading circles, and role-playing allow learners to share perspectives, clarify misunderstandings, and develop confidence in expressing opinions.

Moreover, interactive reading tasks create opportunities for collaboration, which helps build communication and social skills. When students are actively involved in classroom reading tasks, they are more likely to retain information and develop a positive attitude toward reading. Literacy Skills and Young Learners National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) defines young learners as children aging 0-8 year-old, they are actively engaged in the daycare, family child care home, pre-school, kindergarten, and elementary school. The world of the young learners is based on games and fun activity. They do not realize that they are learning communication, lexicon, and grammar. Teachers can use this fact to teach foreign language by using songs, games, and stories. Furthermore, young learners undergo the process of learning first, second, or foreign language literacy skills at the same time with learning English. Linse (2005) stated that L1 literacy leads to L2 literacy development awareness. Reading builds on oral language level and become the key factor that influence L2 reading skill development which includes the ability to comprehend and use both listening and speaking skills.

Experts classified some expected literacy development progresses on young learners on these various areas: (1) a sense of reading and writing works, (2) understanding and using writing and reading for specific purposes, (3) reading aloud fluently and with expression, (4) gathering information from variety of sources, and (5) reading and writing to suit different purposes (Puckett and Black, 2000 in Mc. Kay (2006:12). Literacy skills are all skills needed for reading and writing (Philips, 2003). They include such things as awareness of the sounds of language, awareness of print, and the relationship between letters and sounds. Other literacy skills include vocabulary, comprehension and fluency. Comprehension is the ability to read and understand the text. Actually reading comprehension is more than just being able to read the words; it includes the ability to draw inferences and identify pattern and clues in the text. Types of Classroom Activities That Promote Reading Literacy

1. Group Reading: Students read texts together and discuss meanings, main ideas, and unfamiliar words. This encourages cooperation and comprehension.

2. Storytelling and Dramatization: Teachers can encourage learners to retell stories or perform short plays based on readings. This activity enhances creativity, memory, and language fluency

3. Reading Comprehension Exercises: Activities that involve answering questions, summarizing paragraphs, or predicting outcomes help students understand texts deeply.

4. Vocabulary Games: Word puzzles, matching exercises, and synonym challenges make vocabulary learning fun and effective.

5. Peer Discussions: After reading a story or article, students can share their opinions and reflections. This promotes critical thinking and language use in real communication.

The Teacher's Role in Implementing Reading Activities: Teachers are key facilitators in promoting reading literacy. They must choose appropriate materials based on students' language levels and interests. Teachers should also create a motivating environment where

every learner feels confident to read aloud, share ideas, and ask questions. Additionally, feedback and encouragement are essential. When teachers provide constructive comments and praise, students become more motivated to improve their reading performance.

Impact of Classroom Activities on Students' Reading Literacy: Research shows that students who regularly participate in reading-based classroom activities demonstrate higher reading comprehension, richer vocabulary, and stronger analytical skills. These activities also improve students' concentration and foster independent learning habits. Furthermore, reading literacy supports other academic areas such as writing, listening, and speaking. As a result, learners become more confident communicators both in academic and real-life situations.

Recent research emphasizes that phonological awareness activities, including phonics and sound recognition exercises, are essential in the early stages of reading development. These activities help students connect spoken and written language, which forms the foundation of effective reading comprehension. In addition, interactive reading strategies such as shared reading, paired reading, and class discussions encourage students to engage more deeply with the text. When learners talk about what they read, they not only improve their comprehension but also develop their ability to think critically and express ideas clearly. Furthermore, promoting reading for pleasure has become an important educational approach worldwide. Schools that create comfortable reading environments, provide access to diverse and age-appropriate books, and allocate time for independent reading see significant improvements in students' motivation and literacy levels. Enjoyment of reading often leads to greater confidence and a lifelong habit of reading beyond the classroom.

The teacher's role remains central in this process. Effective teachers carefully select reading materials that match learners' interests and abilities, guide them through comprehension strategies, and encourage active participation. Research from literacy education experts indicates that teacher practices such as modeling reading behavior, facilitating group discussions, and integrating creative tasks have a strong impact on students' engagement and academic progress. When teachers foster a supportive and interactive classroom atmosphere, students become more confident readers and develop a deeper understanding of texts.

In addition to interactive and phonological approaches, digital technologies have started to play a vital role in promoting reading literacy in modern classrooms. Educational applications, e-books, and online reading platforms allow students to access a wide range of texts suited to their interests and reading levels. Digital tools not only make reading more enjoyable but also help teachers personalize instruction by tracking learners' progress and identifying areas that require support. When combined with traditional classroom methods, technology can significantly enhance reading comprehension and vocabulary growth. Collaborative learning is another important factor in promoting reading literacy. When students work together on reading projects, such as analyzing stories, creating book reviews, or presenting summaries, they develop teamwork, communication, and analytical skills. Group-based reading tasks also help learners exchange ideas and learn from each other's interpretations, which leads to a deeper understanding of texts. Moreover, the social and emotional aspects of reading should not be underestimated. When students are given opportunities to connect emotionally with what they read, they are more likely to remember key ideas and reflect critically on them. Teachers can encourage this by selecting meaningful

and culturally relevant materials that reflect students' real-life experiences. Reading becomes more than a linguistic skill it becomes a tool for empathy, creativity, and self-expression.

Finally, assessment plays an important role in the development of reading literacy. Instead of relying solely on traditional tests, teachers should use formative assessment methods such as reading journals, portfolios, and peer feedback. These techniques allow learners to monitor their own progress and take greater responsibility for their learning. Regular reflection and feedback also motivate students to set goals and continuously improve their reading habits. Reading habits must be introduced, inculcated, nurtured and developed at the very young age. It is the foundation for any students to attain the academic success. Furthermore, reading habit could be developed at home and school. On the other words, family and schools have important roles in developing young learners' reading habit.

In conclusion, classroom activities play an indispensable role in promoting reading literacy and fostering students' overall intellectual development. Effective reading instruction goes beyond decoding words; it involves engaging students in meaningful interactions with texts that build comprehension, vocabulary, and critical thinking skills. When teachers use diverse and interactive activities such as group discussions, storytelling, dramatization, and digital reading tools, they create a dynamic learning environment where reading becomes both purposeful and enjoyable. Moreover, a student-centered approach that encourages collaboration, creativity, and reflection helps learners view reading not merely as a school task, but as a lifelong habit and source of personal growth. Teachers, therefore, hold the key to transforming reading lessons into opportunities for exploration, communication, and imagination. By combining traditional and modern techniques, they can guide students toward becoming confident, independent, and motivated readers who are prepared for the demands of the modern world.

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