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IMPROVING THE TECHNOLOGY OF TEACHING PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN TO READ IN THE FAMILY

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ABOUT ARTICLE	
Key words: Reading development, Family involvement, Primary school education, Interactive e-books, Phonics-based learning, Parental involvement, Reading-friendly environment, Literacy skills, Digital tools in education, Early childhood education. Received: 09.08.2024 Accepted: 14.08.2024 Published: 19.08.2024	Abstract: Reading is a critical skill that underpins a child's academic success and lifelong learning. The family environment plays a pivotal role in the development of reading abilities during the primary school years. This article examines the importance of family involvement in teaching reading and proposes improved technologies and strategies to enhance the effectiveness of reading instruction within the home. The integration of modern digital tools, such as interactive e-books and phonics-based apps, alongside traditional family practices like storytelling and shared reading, is emphasized. The article also discusses the importance of parental involvement, consistency, and the creation of a reading-friendly environment. The proposed approaches aim to foster a supportive and engaging atmosphere that not only improves reading proficiency but also cultivates a love for reading in children.

INTRODUCTION

Reading is one of the most fundamental skills a child can acquire during their early years of education. It serves as the cornerstone for academic achievement and is crucial for lifelong learning. In the primary school years, children undergo significant cognitive and linguistic development, making this period critical for establishing strong reading habits and skills. While schools provide structured reading instruction, the role of the family in reinforcing and enhancing these skills cannot be overstated.

The family environment is where children are first exposed to language, stories, and books. It is within this intimate setting that parents and caregivers can have the most profound impact on a child's reading

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development. The interactions between a child and their family members around books and reading are foundational for nurturing a love for reading, which is essential for continued academic success.

However, the challenges of modern life, such as time constraints and the increasing presence of digital media, have made it more difficult for families to engage in traditional reading practices. This has necessitated the development of new strategies and technologies that can integrate seamlessly into family routines while still promoting effective reading instruction.

This article explores the importance of family involvement in the reading development of primary school children and proposes improved technologies and methods that can be employed within the home. By examining both digital and non-digital approaches, the article aims to provide parents and caregivers with practical tools and strategies to support their children's reading journey. The ultimate goal is to create a reading-friendly environment at home that not only enhances reading skills but also fosters a lifelong passion for reading.

The Role of the Family in Reading Development

The family environment is the first and most influential setting where children are introduced to language and literacy. Parents and caregivers serve as primary role models, and their attitudes toward reading significantly influence children's motivation to read. Family involvement in reading activities not only helps in developing reading skills but also strengthens emotional bonds and supports cognitive development.

Research has shown that children who are read to regularly at home perform better in reading comprehension and overall literacy skills. Family routines that include reading time, storytelling, and discussions about books foster a positive reading culture. However, the effectiveness of these activities can be enhanced through the application of specific teaching technologies tailored for the family context.

Technologies for Teaching Reading at Home

To improve the technology of teaching reading in the family, it is essential to consider both digital and non-digital approaches that can be seamlessly integrated into daily routines. The following sections outline various strategies and tools that can be utilized by families to enhance reading instruction at home.

1. Interactive E-books and Reading Apps

o Interactive e-books and reading apps offer personalized learning experiences that can adapt to the child's reading level and pace. These tools often include features such as read-aloud functions, animations, and interactive quizzes that engage children and make reading enjoyable. Parents can use these apps to supplement traditional reading materials and provide additional practice.

2. Phonics-Based Learning Tools

o Phonics is a proven method for teaching reading by emphasizing the relationship between sounds and their corresponding letters. Phonics-based learning tools, such as flashcards, educational games, and mobile apps, can be used at home to reinforce the phonetic principles taught in school. These tools allow children to practice decoding words in a playful and interactive manner.

3. Audio Books and Storytelling

o Audio books and storytelling sessions are effective ways to expose children to new vocabulary and complex sentence structures. Listening to stories read aloud by parents or through audio books helps develop listening comprehension and fluency. Families can incorporate audio books into daily routines, such as during car rides or before bedtime, to provide consistent exposure to language.

4. Family Reading Programs

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o Structured family reading programs, where parents and children engage in shared reading activities, can be an effective way to foster a reading culture at home. These programs often include reading challenges, book discussions, and reading logs to track progress. By participating in these programs, families can create a supportive environment that encourages regular reading habits.

5. Use of Visual Aids and Manipulatives

o Visual aids, such as picture books, word walls, and reading charts, can help children associate words with images and concepts, enhancing their understanding and retention. Manipulatives like letter tiles or word puzzles can also be used to make reading activities more hands-on and engaging for young learners.

Strategies for Successful Implementation

To successfully implement these technologies in the family setting, parents need to be actively involved and knowledgeable about the available resources. The following strategies can help parents effectively support their children's reading development:

• Parental Education and Training

o Providing parents with training on how to use reading technologies and strategies is crucial. Workshops, online courses, and informational materials can equip parents with the skills and knowledge needed to support their child's reading journey.

• Creating a Reading-Friendly Environment

o A reading-friendly environment at home includes having a variety of reading materials accessible to children, setting aside dedicated reading times, and minimizing distractions. Creating cozy reading nooks and involving children in selecting books can make reading a more enjoyable activity.

• Consistency and Routine

o Consistency is key to developing reading skills. Establishing a daily reading routine helps reinforce learning and makes reading a natural part of the child's day. Parents should aim to incorporate reading activities into everyday life, making them as natural and routine as possible.

CONCLUSION

The family plays an indispensable role in the early reading development of primary school children. While formal education provides the foundation for reading skills, it is within the family environment that these skills are nurtured, reinforced, and transformed into a lifelong love for reading. As educational landscapes evolve, so too must the strategies families employ to support their children's literacy journey.

This article has highlighted the importance of integrating both modern digital tools and traditional practices to enhance the effectiveness of reading instruction at home. Technologies such as interactive e-books, phonics-based learning tools, and audio books offer innovative ways to engage children and tailor learning to their individual needs. Simultaneously, family reading programs and the creation of a reading-friendly environment serve to reinforce the value of reading as a shared and enjoyable activity. Successful implementation of these technologies and strategies requires active parental involvement, consistency, and the establishment of routines that make reading a natural part of daily life. By equipping parents with the necessary knowledge and resources, families can create a supportive environment that not only improves reading proficiency but also instills a deep appreciation for literature.

Ultimately, the goal is to empower families to take an active role in their children's reading development, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to become a confident, competent, and

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enthusiastic reader. By improving the technology and methods of teaching reading within the family, we can set the foundation for academic success and cultivate a generation of lifelong learners.

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