

LITERACY DEVELOPMENT IN PRESCHOOL CHILDREN: A WHOLE LANGUAGE CURRICULUM

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ABSTRACT

The study aims to explore the effects of Whole Language Curriculum on preschool children's language and literacy development. Researchers designed developmentally appropriate curriculum for preschool children to guide children build language ability and related corresponding coping strategies during their learning and playing. There were 30 children (24 6-year-olds and 6 5-year-olds) in the study, and qualitative research methods were applied to collect data, including: observation record, reflection dairy, scripts for interview dialogue, children's worksheet and daily life activity plans. The results of the research are generalized as below: 1. Applying whole language approach with thematic instruction into children's routine activities can enhance children's language ability. 2. With children's language growth in reading habit, environment words recognition, listening, comprehension, oral expression, writing, and self confidence cultivation, preschool educators and their parents also change their former thoughts toward the whole language approach and offer sufficient support in children's learning. At last, several suggestions are proposed for preschool teachers, parents and further researchers.

Keywords: Whole Language, Preschool, Curriculum, Literacy, Children.