

EMPOWERING CHILDREN'S CREATIVITY WITH THE INSTRUCTION OF WORDLESS PICTURE BOOKS

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to explore whether children's wordless picture book instruction has a positive influence on children's creativity and the performance of creativity within the children's work. This research was conducted with qualitative method as the main approach, and the quantitative method as the supportive approach. We selected 29 5-year-old children in certain elementary school's affiliated preschool in Kaohsiung City as the experimental group, and the 27 5-year-old children in the nearby affiliated preschool as the control group. For the children in the experimental group, the children interpreted wordless books and proceeded relative extended activities through preschool educators-children co-reading and discussion as experimental teaching lasting 12 weeks. On the other hand, children in the control group received general teaching. In regard of qualitative part, the researcher and an art craft professional evaluated and analyzed children's picture book creativity, and the data of daily observation and discussing process, interpretation of wordless picture books and parents feedback were analyzed and organized to prove that children's creativity has transformed, and compare with the quantitative data. As for quantitative part, we adopted quasi experimental research. In addition to 9 wordless picture books, the research tools also included the "children's image creativity test" in "children's creativity test" published by Educational Bureau, Taipei City Government, the pretest and post test data, and the hypothesis test with single factor co-variance analysis. The research results are as follows:

1. Wordless picture book integrated into early childhood education is helpful for children's performance of creativity in children's drawing works.
2. Wordless picture book integrated into early childhood education extended activities can enhance children's overall performance of creativity.
3. Wordless picture book integrated into early childhood education can enhance children's "fluid ability" and "creativity".

Keywords: Children; wordless picture books, creativity, early childhood education.