



STAGES AND EXERCISES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF READING SKILLS

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Abstract: Reading is a fundamental skill that plays a crucial role in our lives. It is not only the ability to decode and comprehend written text but also an essential element of education, information, and communication. Developing reading skills begins at an early age and continues throughout our lives. In this article, we will explore the key stages of reading development and suggest exercises for each stage.

Key words: reading skills, stages of development, exercises, pre-reading skills, decoding, fluency, comprehension, critical reading, vocabulary development, word building, read-aloud, questioning, visualization, summarizing, text annotation,

Introduction

Developing strong reading skills involves various stages and exercises that gradually build upon one another. From the early stages of phonics and decoding to the advanced stages of comprehension and critical analysis, each step contributes to a well-rounded reader. Let's delve deeper into the stages of reading development in English.

1. Pre-reading Stage:

This stage focuses on building foundational skills and preparing learners for reading. It includes developing oral language skills, phonological awareness, and vocabulary. Some exercises for this stage include:

- Rhyming activities: Engage learners in activities that involve identifying and generating rhyming words.
- Vocabulary building: Introduce new words through pictures, context, or word association games.
- Oral storytelling: Encourage learners to listen to and retell stories, helping them develop comprehension and narrative skills.

2. Decoding Stage:

In this stage, learners acquire the ability to decode words by associating letters with their corresponding sounds. Exercises for this stage include:



- Letter-sound correspondence: Teach learners the sounds of individual letters and letter combinations (e.g., consonant blends, digraphs).

- Word blending: Practice blending sounds together to form words (e.g., "c-a-t" becomes "cat").

- Sight word recognition: Introduce common sight words that do not follow regular phonetic patterns and encourage learners to recognize them instantly.

3. Fluency Stage:

At this stage, learners focus on improving reading speed, accuracy, and expression. Exercises for developing fluency include:

- Timed reading: Set a timer and have learners read a passage within a specific time frame, gradually increasing the difficulty level.

- Choral reading: Read aloud together as a group, emphasizing proper pronunciation, rhythm, and intonation.

- Reader's theater: Engage learners in acting out scripts or plays, allowing them to practice reading with expression and fluency.

4. Comprehension Stage:

This stage emphasizes understanding and interpreting written text. Exercises for developing reading comprehension skills include:

- Predicting: Encourage learners to make predictions about what they think will happen next in a story or article based on the information they have read.

- Summarizing: Ask learners to summarize the main ideas or key details of a passage in their own words.

- Making inferences: Guide learners to draw conclusions and make educated guesses based on clues and evidence in the text.

5. Critical Reading Stage:

At this stage, learners develop higher-order thinking skills and engage in critical analysis of texts. Exercises for critical reading include:

- Evaluating arguments: Encourage learners to assess the validity and reliability of the author's claims and supporting evidence.

- Identifying bias: Help learners recognize any biases or perspectives that may be present in the text.

- Analyzing literary devices: Explore how authors use literary devices such as similes, metaphors, and symbolism to convey meaning.

Conclusion

The development of reading skills occurs through various stages, each building upon the previous one. By implementing appropriate exercises at each



stage, individuals can enhance their reading abilities and become more proficient readers. Remember to tailor the exercises. In conclusion, the development of reading skills is a crucial aspect of education that requires a systematic approach. By understanding the stages and exercises involved in this process, educators can effectively guide students towards becoming proficient readers. The initial stage focuses on phonemic awareness and decoding skills, enabling learners to recognize and sound out words. As students progress, they engage in activities that enhance vocabulary, comprehension, and critical thinking abilities. These exercises may include vocabulary expansion, inferencing, summarizing, and analyzing text structures. Furthermore, integrating technology and incorporating various reading materials can enrich the learning experience and cater to different learning styles. Ultimately, by providing a comprehensive framework for the development of reading skills, educators can empower students to become confident, independent readers capable of accessing and comprehending a wide range of texts.

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