

TeachME Professional Development

Improving Literacy in the Early Years

1. What are the best types of books to surround children with as they develop in their literacy journey?

- A. All kinds, from as many genres as possible
- B. The classics
- C. Books written in the last ten years
- D. Only books within one grade level of a student's ability

2. Through increased literacy, children can learn about environmental, geographical, cultural, and financial issues. However, there's another outcome associated with literacy development that is even more important for a future global citizen. What is it?

- A. Enhanced Vocabulary
- B. Increased Brain Activity
- C. Higher Earning Potential
- D. Empathy

3. Professional development for teachers will help drive the literacy capacity of the entire school. Which of the following statements most correctly supports this statement?

- A. Teachers who have more training will be less fearful of being experimental with teaching techniques
- B. Teachers who know instructive techniques based on the latest research of pediatric development can best help children grow
- C. Children respect teachers who have terminal degrees
- D. Professional development helps teachers work together more effectively

4. Why are good assessment data analysis practices necessary for improving literacy education at your school?

- A. Reporting accurate data will help make connections between learning and outcomes
- B. Data helps improve problem solving at the administrative level
- C. Data from assessments should inform future pedagogy
- D. Analyzing data helps teachers grow in their own skills which in turn enhances student literacy

5. Which option represents the most effective way that a school can currently support literacy efforts at home?

- A. Realize that not all parents can support literacy efforts, so be empathic and understanding about their challenges
- B. Build relationships to establish trust with parents so that they will be more open to suggestions
- C. Encourage all parents to be volunteers at school and to share in decision-making
- D. Provide them documents, links, and videos to help them interact with their child's studies in the easiest way possible

6. Your school's science teacher is asking why there are literacy requirements for her subjects. What do you tell her?

- A. Literacy skills are critical for reading scientific symbols and diagrams
- B. That it's important for students to see practical applications of literacy outside literature class
- C. Understanding literacy builds on mental discipline and reasoning skills, which are required in advanced science courses
- D. Teaching literacy strategies in science courses helps increase interest in STEM subjects

7. What is the best way to describe the relationship between literacy and numeracy?

- A. Literacy is about letters, and numeracy is about numbers, and each area is influenced by cognitive skills that don't intersect
- B. Students are generally more gifted in one area than the other, so teachers should focus on where the student struggles
- C. Literacy and numeracy overlap in the areas of quantitative and spatial language
- D. Literacy refers to the way a brain communicates; numeracy is a form of literacy that communicates numerical information

8. While humans have been using oral language techniques for over 60,000 years (according to some estimations), we've only been reading and writing for a very small percentage of that time. How long, approximately, have humans been reading and writing?

- A. 1,000 years
- B. 3,000 years
- C. 5,000 years
- D. 7,000 years

9. What percentage of students do researchers believe are able to make the connection between verbal communication and written words themselves?

- A. 30%
- B. 40%
- C. 50%
- D. 60%

10. Which of these processes comes second, developmentally speaking?

- A. Ability to process visual and auditory stimuli
- B. Auditory Comprehension
- C. Reading Comprehension
- D. Writing Abilities

11. Why is earlier literacy education important?

- A. It takes advantage of brain plasticity
- B. It helps enhance creativity and curiosity
- C. It assists in the development of reason and logic
- D. It encourages early learners to make specific connections

12. What is the step in numeracy development that comes latest for most students of the following?

- A. Quantity recognition
- B. Familiarity with number words
- C. Awareness of conservation of quantity
- D. Awareness of cardinality

13. How long does it take information, on average, to go from printed word to full comprehension for a proficient reader?

- A. 0.1 seconds
- B. 0.5 seconds
- C. 1.5 seconds
- D. 2 seconds

14. What is the benefit of a universal literacy screening process at the beginning of school?

- A. Identifying children who may need increased literacy support
- B. Obtaining more data about the overall student body
- C. Identifying students to place in the gifted program
- D. Determining how successful previous interventions have been

15. What are the visual and auditory cortices responsible for?

- A. Providing gateways for information to come into the brain for processing
- B. Decoding reading information
- C. Helping children comprehend and retain more efficiently
- D. Acting as the natural 'text to speech' function in a human brain

16. One of your students seems to struggle with a basic reading comprehension assignment. What would you do next?

- A. Help the student focus on vocabulary and context clues
- B. See if the student needs help bolstering their decoding skills before moving on to comprehension
- C. Help the student connect the reading to another text or another experience
- D. Encourage the student to visualize and make predictions about the reading

17. If you looked at a brain scan performed while a student was reading and noticed over-compensatory activity in the right hemisphere, what might this indicate?

- A. The student would likely be highly efficient in language processing
- B. The student may have difficulty with recall and summarization
- C. The student will likely excel in word recognition but may have problems with fluency
- D. The student should be screened for dyslexia or other literacy struggles

18. Researchers have found, through years of observation watching young learners rewire their brains, that there are two variables which - above, perhaps, many others - contribute most directly to strengthening the neural pathways which eventually transform struggling readers into strong ones. These two variables are

- A. Constant practice and strategic instruction
- B. Nature and nurture
- C. Level of background knowledge and motivation
- D. The enhancement of phonological awareness and word recognition

19. Why is reading aloud a particularly effective way to help children cement their literacy skills?

- A. It's easier for teachers to assess children as they read aloud
- B. A student reading aloud can provide auditory stimuli for other students
- C. Reading aloud lights up several different literacy centers of the brain at the same time
- D. Reading aloud encourages focus and concentration

20. What is the first part of the brain to light up when you see an object of interest?

- A. The left hemisphere
- B. The letterbox
- C. The amygdala
- D. The visual cortex

21. What does the number module of our brain help us to perceive most fundamentally?

- A. Mathematical relationships

- B. Cardinality
- C. Quantity
- D. Quality

22. Which of these is NOT an integral component of early childhood literacy instruction?

- A. Decoding
- B. Recognizing reading patterns and symbols
- C. Comprehension
- D. Oral language skills

23. What does the ‘multiplier effect’ of literacy refer to?

- A. The idea that the literate are increasingly able to be productive members of society
- B. The idea that once you start reading, the benefits of literacy continue to accumulate
- C. The idea that your vocabulary grows exponentially in the beginning
- D. The idea that children learning together enhances knowledge for all

24. Decoding can be broken down into four subsets of skills. Which one of these is NOT an example of a decoding skill?

- A. phonological awareness
- B. phonics and word recognition
- C. basic memorization
- D. print concepts

25. Which of these is NOT a direct, common benefit of increased literacy for an individual?

- A. A bigger vocabulary
- B. An increased capacity for emotional awareness
- C. An increased toolkit of quantitative reasoning skills
- D. An increased appreciation for the use of their other senses

26. If you want to get more involved in helping your school tackle literacy education for your students, what’s the first thing that you need to focus on before doing anything else to see the largest possible benefit?

- A. Get your entire school's population on board
- B. Ensure that you have the proper resources
- C. Conduct pertinent research
- D. Set an example by helping one struggling student

27. Which of these is NOT a common cause of low literacy?

- A. Lack of student interest
- B. Lack of a positive role model at home
- C. Moving from school to school frequently
- D. Undiagnosed student disabilities

28. Persons with low literacy enjoy fewer job opportunities than their peers. Why is this most likely the case?

- A. Persons with low literacy have less confidence, which is reflected in the workforce
- B. Persons with low literacy have a harder time retaining and communicating information effectively
- C. Those with lower literacy are less likely to seek training opportunities
- D. Poor literacy impacts critical thinking and social skills

29. Low literacy in individuals can affect an entire society. Which of these attributes of a society is NOT directly affected by individual literacy?

- A. A nation's GDP
- B. The cost of unemployment taxes
- C. The prevalence of experienced, empathetic leaders filling every needed role
- D. A country's population

30. One of a school's initiatives needs to be to help struggling students overcome barriers to literacy. Which of these common barriers to a family's literacy can a school most directly assist with?

- A. Language barriers
- B. Poor nutrition and hunger
- C. Their anxiety about the process of learning literacy
- D. Their access to easily-digestible, practical resources

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