TeachME Professional Development

Improving Literacy in the Early Years

1. According to the course, what should school libraries be stocked with?

A. A wide array of literature that includes many different types of genres
B. The classics
C. Books written in the last ten years
D. Only books within one grade level of a student's ability

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2. Research suggests that reading a wide variety of literature can help children better understand and relate to the experiences of others. What important quality may develop through a love of reading?

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

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3. Why should schools recognize the importance of professional development for teaching staff?

A. It allows schools to reduce the number of literacy assessments
B. Newer teaching methods may be imbued with the latest research in terms of helping children acquire literacy skills
C. Children respect teachers who have terminal degrees
D. It replaces the need for a school-wide literacy curriculum

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4. After analyzing assessment data, how do teachers use the information to support student literacy growth?

A. Teachers assign more homework to all students
B. Teachers group all students by reading level permanently
C. Teachers use that specific data to update their own teaching practices
D. Teachers reduce the number of literacy assessments given

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5. What can a school do to remove one potential roadblock (ignorance of support strategies) that keeps parents from helping their children with literacy at home?

A. Require all parents to volunteer in the classroom each week
B. Send home extra homework for parents to grade
C. Limit communication with parents to report cards
D. Generate a list of support measures that parents can use to promote literacy efforts at home

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6. Why is a whole-school approach important when improving literacy in children?

A. Individual teachers are solely responsible for literacy development
B. A coordinated effort across the entire learning community can create stronger student outcomes and higher-performing schools
C. Literacy initiatives are only necessary for students with learning disorders
D. Schools should focus more on attracting funding than supporting literacy

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7. How does numeracy relate to literacy development in young children?

A. Numeracy is unrelated to literacy and is taught separately from all other learning skills
B. Numeracy replaces the need for literacy instruction in early childhood education
C. Numeracy is only important after children have mastered reading skills
D. Numeracy is a related foundational skill that helps children progress through their studies alongside literacy development

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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

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9. What percentage of children may be able to make connections between written symbols and meaning on their own?

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

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10. What foundational skill is necessary before basic reading comprehension can develop?

A. Memorizing written vocabulary words
B. Auditory Comprehension
C. Silent reading practice
D. Advanced grammar instruction

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11. Why is early literacy instruction especially important?

A. Because brain plasticity in early life makes it easier for students to develop literacy skills
B. Because schools are required to teach reading before students enter kindergarten

C. Because literacy skills cannot be developed after early childhood
D. Because students naturally lose reading ability as they get older

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12. What numeracy concept refers to a child's understanding that the last number counted represents the total number of items in a set?

A. One-to-one correspondence
B. Subitizing
C. Number sequencing
D. Awareness of cardinality

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13. Which of the following best describes how quickly information moves from a written word to the brain in proficient readers?

A. Several seconds
B. Under half a second
C. About one full second
D. It varies widely and cannot be measured

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14. What is the benefit of implementing a universal screening procedure for students in younger grades?

A. It helps you catch and identify any students who may have reading or literacy issues
B. It replaces the need for classroom literacy instruction
C. It identifies students to place in the gifted program
D. It determines which teachers need additional training

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15. Which part of the brain acts as the initial gateway for processing written words and letters?

A. Visual Cortex
B. Auditory Cortex
C. Motor Cortex
D. Frontal Lobe

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16. Which of the following best describes decoding skills in early literacy development?

A. Understanding the meaning of full stories and paragraphs
B. Learning letter sounds, the alphabet, and phonological concepts like rhyming
C. Memorizing entire books for later recall
D. Developing advanced writing and essay skills

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17. What do brain images of dyslexic children show about their reading processes?

A. Their brains show no differences compared to typical readers

B. They rely entirely on the visual cortex for reading
C. They process written language more efficiently using both hemispheres equally
D. They may show under-activation in language-processing areas and compensatory over-activation in other regions

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18. Which two variables most directly contribute to strengthening neural pathways for reading development?

A. Constant practice and strategic instruction
B. Memorization and repetition without instruction
C. Independent reading and silent study time
D. Exposure to advanced vocabulary and testing

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19. What is one suggested benefit of having students read aloud frequently?

A. It reduces the need for visual processing during reading
B. It eliminates the need for explicit instruction in literacy
C. It helps strengthen the connection between sounds and written letters while building multiple literacy skills at once
D. It focuses only on improving speaking skills rather than reading comprehension

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20. If the visual cortex sends an image of three apples to the brain, which part of the brain understands and registers the "three-ness" of that information?

A. The letterbox
B. The auditory cortex
C. The angular gyrus
D. The number module

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21. Some psychologists suggest that humans are born with a hard-wired sense of what, managed by a part of the brain called the "number module"?

A. Letter sounds
B. Grammar
C. Quantity
D. Written vocabulary

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22. Early literacy instruction tends to include decoding, basic comprehension, and which other activity?

A. Understanding place value
B. Oral language skills, or the basics of sentence structure and a beginning vocabulary
C. Advanced essay writing
D. Independent research projects

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23. According to UNESCO, what does the "multiplier effect" of literacy refer to?

A. The idea that literacy empowers the literate to be productive members of society
B. The idea that literacy only benefits the individual who learns to read
C. The idea that numeracy skills develop faster than reading skills
D. The idea that students should read several books at the same time

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24. Decoding can be broken down into four subsets of skills. Which of the following is one of those subsets?

A. Basic memorization
B. Vocabulary testing
C. Fluency
D. Silent reading practice

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25. Why is global literacy important in the 21st century?

A. It helps communities remain culturally isolated
B. It allows individuals to avoid differing viewpoints
C. It focuses only on improving reading scores in schools
D. It enables people to communicate effectively, think critically, and work together on global problems

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26. Why is flexibility important in literacy instruction?

A. Teaching is an art, and following rigid, concrete rules rarely works when dealing with real human students
B. Literacy instruction should be completely scripted for every classroom
C. Teachers should avoid collaboration with other educators
D. Consistency in literacy education means every student learns the same way

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27. Which of the following is listed as a common cause of low literacy?

A. Regularly missing school
B. Attending the same school consistently
C. Participating in literacy programs
D. Reading at home every day

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28. Which of the following is one reason persons with low literacy have fewer job opportunities?

A. Employers are legally barred from hiring them
B. A prospective employer might overlook that individual, preferring a candidate with more schooling or skills
C. Most jobs no longer require reading or writing

D. They are typically overqualified for available positions

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29. Countries with higher proportions of adults who suffer from low literacy tend to have what?

A. Faster population growth
B. Increased national investment in education
C. Higher rates of technological innovation
D. A much slower long-term growth rate for their GDP

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30. What is a side benefit of exposing students to stories from other countries and cultures?

A. Students tend to perform better on standardized tests
B. Students will rely less on classroom discussion
C. English will become the default way students communicate
D. You'll help your students embrace curiosity and an open mind

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