Fostering pupils' motivation through after-reading-activities

Project background: In the "PIRLS for Teachers"-project the Oxford University Centre for Educational Assessment (OUCEA) collaborates with teachers to identify which information provided in PIRLS is particularly interesting for them. PIRLS is the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study, a study conducted in 5-year cycles and in which over 50 countries participate.

What do we know about learning to read?

- Pupils learn best when they are interested and motivated.
- Pupils are more motivated to read and comprehend texts in a socially interactive reading environment.
- Teachers can create a socially interactive reading environment when they give pupils choices, challenging tasks and time to collaborate and discuss texts.





Data

- Pupil information (5,000 Year 5 pupils): motivation & interest to read, gender & number of books at home as an indicator for the family's value of education.
- Teacher information: how often after reading a text do you use written or oral activities to engage pupils with the text.

After pupils have read a text/book, how often do you engage them in ... Writing activities Oral activities Test or quiz about what Talking with peers about they have read what they have read Writing something about Answer questions about what they have read what they have read +) for pupils with few +)for boys +)for pupils with few (+)for all pupils books at home books at home Interest in Motivation to reading read +) means a positive association

Results

In English primary schools written after-reading-activities are an integral part of teaching reading. Almost 7 in 10 teachers use them at least once a week. Our research suggests:

- 1) Oral after-reading-activities enhance pupils' interest and motivation to read better, particularly for boys. They are especially important to encourage interest and motivation for pupils who cannot benefit from many books at home.
- 2) Written after-reading-activities generally have fewer positive effects and are discouraging for boys and pupils with many books at home.

Creating opportunities for sharing and talking with others about texts and books may positively foster your pupils motivation to read and engage in what they have read.



