The Power of Story Reading with Children

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Significance of reading with and to children

• Reading with children from an early age is recognised as one of the most important activities families can do to enhance their child's future ability to read and write.

• Children’s brain development and the capacity to learn literacy skills have a foundation in children’s early experiences of reading.

• Children need to be active participants in their literacy learning by talking, questioning and discussing and these are critical ingredients for children in their language development.

• Parents can prepare their children for success in formal literacy by providing quality learning experiences.
Data from the 2012 and 2015 Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) collections show that Queensland Children experience more vulnerability on the Language and cognitive skills domain compared to the Australian average.
The purpose of the research was to identify the specific behaviours that parents use to scaffold their child's knowledge through story reading.

Two forms of data collection:

Parents filming of the reading experiences with their child

GoPro camera embedded into a chest plate in order for the parents to film their reading experiences with their child

Interviews with the participants.

Semi-structured interviews with the participants about their views and experiences in relation to reading to their child.

Questions included:
- What are the benefits you most want your child to get from reading books?
- Can you describe how you read to your child? What does it look like?
- How did you know how to read to your child? Where did you get this information from?
Images of the study
Case Study Methodology

A collective case study methodology was chosen to gain an insight into the phenomenon of how parents read to their child.

Participants

Families were sourced as participants through a local neighbourhood group.
The results of the study fund that when parents read to their child, they went **beyond reading the text on the page to discussing the pictures and words to actively link the book to the child’s real life.**
The study found that by simply extending on the book and linking the text or illustrations to the child’s ‘real’ life that it will have significant positive effects for the child. This includes the strengthening of the bond between parent and child and supporting their literacy knowledge formation.
Next Steps

An extension of the study would be useful to ascertain if this behaviour also occurs in a larger cohort of parents in other locations within Australia including high socio-economic areas.
Additionally, investigation of the behaviours used by educators when story reading would be useful in early childhood education and care services. Early childhood professionals play a critical role in influencing the positive development of young children.
Thank you for your attendance.

Any Questions?