

# How Do Children Engage in Reading for Pleasure?

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## Introduction

- Reading for pleasure is described as reading for enjoyment.
- Reader engagement is just 33 % in UK compared to 40% internationally read for pleasure [1]
- Currently 4/10 children cannot read well at age 11 [2]
- 'Hooks into Books' are a collection of books with accompanying activities curated by Seven Stories The National Centre for Children's Books

## Aims

- What are children's reading habits from 2 schools with differing amounts of pupil premium?
- How is reading for pleasure implemented within schools?
- How will schools use books provided solely with the intention of reading for pleasure?

## Methods

- 2 Schools were recruited, School A: 31.9% pupil premium and School B: 69.1%.
- Provided with one Hooks into Books pack.
- **Teacher Questionnaire:** Questions about reading habits within the classroom and the amount of time they are able to dedicate to reading.
- **Child Questionnaire:** Questions about where, what and with whom they liked to read alongside questions about library visits and trips to Seven Stories
- **Classroom Observation:** One observation of a Key Stage 1 class using Hooks into Books in each school.
- **Post Observation Teacher Interview**

## Results

### Attitudes Towards Reading

- Results from the Read On. Get On. Project show that at aged 10, 73% of girls liked reading, compared with just 59% of boys [2].
- The graphs below show 87% of children either love or like reading at age 6-7 Key Stage 1 in both schools.

### Attitudes Towards Hooks into Books

- 70% of children at School A suggested they loved the story-time using 'Hooks into Books'. This is comparison to 50% of children who loved the normal story time. Thus showing a 20% increase in enjoyment factor

## Interviews/Observations

### School A

**Definition of reading for pleasure:** Enjoying stories for the sake of it and being able to be comfortable laying down in a nice environment

- Read every day for pleasure and level
- Took a very creative approach including art/science/ puppet making activities

### School B

**Definition of reading for pleasure:** Having enough knowledge and understanding to be able to read for fluency.

- Read between 2-5 times a week for level/pleasure
- Took a more curriculum based approach, writing tasks with accompanied drawing

## Children's Attitude to Reading



## Conclusions and Implications

- 'In this instance, children's reading habits did not differ between the schools (regardless of pupil premium percentage).
- Teachers and Schools have different definitions therefore different approaches to reading for pleasure. However reading for pleasure, not purpose could be the key to future reader enjoyment.
- Schools took different approaches to reading the story (one read all one read half). To choosing the story (one asked colleagues, one looked at illustrations). To activities: one was purely creative and artistic where as the other followed more closely the curriculum with creative writing and pictures.
- Further longitudinal studies would shed further light onto the impact on reading for pleasure on future reading and academic attainment.

*'Hooks into Books are good for hooking teachers in, inspiring the children and are modern and current literature. Nice to have something different'* (School B Teacher)