

Literacy In Philadelphia – Blog Post 2 research

1. What did you notice about the children during their reading classes?

Children are energetic, and eager to help out the teacher. Some kids are rowdy while others were very calm and collected. All the kids have different paces for reading and the teacher accommodates to the different paces. Some of the kids rated that they like reading on a scale of 1-10 so far the kids have said 6-10. Others were just disinterested. Most of the students said that their elementary schools were alright with reading and that they prefer their new school to their old one because the teacher helps them more, and is a bit more relaxed with reading. Today was just a make up day, though for the kids who didn't have work seemed to be reading or watching the TED talk video.

Different class, same topic. Two kids said that all kids should be able to learn how to read because it's important for them "to know words" and they think without reading that kids would be troubled. Some of the kids say they read everyday, a few kids here read at highschool levels (which is fantastic). Kids say that they are challenged but it's alright because they feel like they are learning more and that they still understand it. Kids here rate reading on a scale of one to ten from 5-10.

Different class, same topics. Another student in this class reads at a highschool level. Thinks reading is very important. Rates reading at a 9. Thinks that kids that don't care about reading won't get anywhere in life. One student said their old teacher skipped around too much and didn't read that many books with them and would stop half way through a lesson and skip to another thus confusing the kids. That kid also said that kids who don't read could possibly get somewhere it depends on what their skill is. Another kid said that reading is important especially if you want to further your education and want to get a good job. On a scale of 1-10 they said they liked reading from a 6-10. They believe that a good teacher is a way to help encourage reading.

Different class, same topic. Another kid reads at a highschool level, parents encourage reading. Another kid has said that they love reading and that all kids should be able to learn how to read. I asked one about the causes of kids not wanting to learn and he said that he thinks it's a combination of parents and technology. He believes that technology is taking over their want to read. He also believes that some parents spoil their kids too much. I asked another one about their previous school and they said that their reading classes were far too easy. I also wanted to ask about the PSSA's because of reading scores and they think that PSSA's are not that stressful but they feel the need to exceed the PSSA's basic expectations.

Some kids were reading throughout the entire class. Some of the kids just have a love for reading which was delightful to see!

2. Are the teachers enthusiastic about reading?

The teacher is highly enthusiastic about reading. From what I can tell, he cares about the students learning.

3. Are the teachers keeping the class interested in the lesson?

The teacher has a hold on the students and the follow direction really well. Teacher jokes with the class but always stays on topic. They are learning about poverty and resilience (awesome topics for 6th grade). They seem to enjoy what the teacher is talking about.

4. Are the students up to par with reading levels?

Most are.

5. Are the teachers aware about almost half of Philadelphia's children not knowing how to read?

No.