

## 第二屆台灣國際英語教學展聆聽演講心得

### Moving into reading fluency ~by 東華 John D. Smith

重新整理 陳琬如 Cindy Chen



There are 4 key roles of reading in the language learning process:

#### ✦1. Reading reinforces grammar

Spoken language included a lot of errors and corrections. It is used for communication. Therefore, it is not well-organized most of the time. On the contrary, written language presents language that has been edited and revised. It is also static so readers can slowly think about what was said they didn't immediately understand.

#### ✦2. Reading helps with phonics

Phonics improves reading but reading also helps improving phonics. Seeing words in print helps students internalize phonics rules.

#### ✦3. Reading is the precursor to writing

You can't read you can't write.

#### ✦4. Reading is an available resources

One of the major problems of language learning is a lack of chance to practice. Books are always available. We can't always expect students having a conversation with foreigners. But they can always sit there and read.

For these 4 roles which reading plays in the language learning, we can consider it as the fundamental of learning of EFL students. Therefore, teachers should try to develop their students' independent reading as possible as they can within the limited time.

What is the practical principles for teaching reading?

#### ✦1. Repeated vocabularies

An ideal conference books is always having the vocabularies repeated through out a lesson in student book. In that way, students can use and reuse the vocabularies and put these vocabularies into their long-term retention. If we compare those student books which we use now with the principles above, we can easily find that they are not qualified to become the practical conference books at all. We can only see the key vocabularies in the context once or twice

in one lesson. That's not enough. So...how to help students to put those vocabularies into their long-term memory? It depends on teachers' teaching skills.

#### ✦2.Scaffolding

Giving students smallest part upon another to gain higher part before teaching students how to read.

#### ✦3.Context

Presents a context that students do know. Teachers have to give students some guidelines or clues to help them understanding the meaning of the books.

#### ✦4.Appropriate chunks

Lessons should not be too long for young learners' attention spans. The short memory of a young learner is about 3-5 words. New vocabulary items should be introduced in small group.

#### ✦ 5.Isolating repeating patterns

Grammar patterns should be introduced with old vocabularies. New vocabularies should be introduced with old patterns.

#### ✦6.Interesting

Boring reading is death of a reading program. Reading should be more stimulating than TV or video games. Making students read something they are interested in. The "interests" is not for teachers but for students. After listening to Mr. Smith's speech and sharing about reading. I have a whole new idea about reading activity, including the ways how to get our students involve in reading and the ideas about reading itself. So I would say, in summary, that reading is a low-stress activity. The lower

the stress, the higher the interest. 