

Public Abstract

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Title:A CASE STUDY OF PERCEPTIONS OF TEACHERS ENGAGED IN TEACHING READING TO ADLOESCENTS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

There are many middle school students that read at the basic or below basic reading levels. The students lack either the ability or skill to read or motivation or a combination of these two factors. The students who lack the ability or skill to read will have a deficit in one or some combination of the components of the reading process. The components of the reading process include phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Students that lack motivation often find the text, class work and school in general unmeaningful and not relevant to their lives outside of school.

The purpose of this qualitative case study was to explore the perceptions of teachers teaching reading in a middle school to determine ideas about how to address the issue of students not reading and how to help them read better. The teachers shared their perceptions about why students struggle with reading, how to assist them become better readers, how best to teach reading in the middle school setting and what training they would need to be better reading teachers. All the teachers in this study recognized their responsibility to teach reading and assist students to become successful in school and better prepared for their future.

The teachers identified about 40% of all students in this middle school struggle with reading. It was not clear as to the leading cause for students struggling. The teachers did realize the need for further assessment of students to determine individual reading needs. The teachers felt a separate reading class was needed for students reading below grade level and the students who demonstrate adequate reading skills but want to become better readers could be taught reading strategies in the core subject classes. The teachers listed topics for professional development training that would enable them to assess and teach basic reading skills, increase student motivation, how to use additional forms of literacy in their classes, and make their classes more relevant to the lives of the students.

The purpose of assisting students to learn to read and read better provides a foundation for learning in school and for many endeavors throughout their lives. Reading is a fundamental skill that should be the highest priority for any educational setting.