

Creating a Positive Reading Environment

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There are many different strategies and practices an educator can enforce to create a positive reading environment. As the article *Literacy-Rich Environments* (2015) notes, a literacy-rich environment “emphasizes the importance of speaking, reading, and writing in the learning of all students.” This definition illustrates how a positive reading environment consists of more than just promoting reading in the classroom. An educator must promote writing and speaking skills in his/her classroom. This paper will contain a couple different strategies one can implement into a classroom to create a positive reading environment.

Firstly, it seems to be helpful to create word walls. This is a great strategy to show how important vocabulary words and gives the students a visual of the terms’ importance and a reference for students when they come across difficult vocabulary. Additionally, as *Literacy-Rich Environments* notes, posting pictures alongside important written terms helps the students relate written words to pictures. Not only will this help students retain information, it provides a way to create a colorful and positive environment in the classroom while promoting literacy skills. Having the classroom decorated with key terms shows the students as soon as they walk in the classroom how important reading will be in the classroom.

Next, it is important for an educator to have multiple selections of text for students to read from. An educator should supply multiple different sources as well. For example, one could have dictionaries, recipes, novels, menus, and other different reading materials. Further, this helps students distinguish from fiction and nonfiction sources which is an important skill for students to develop. Additionally, incorporating “real world” examples of where reading is used outside the classroom motivates students to develop their reading skills. All of these selections should be available to the student in a classroom library. This library should be located in an area

easily accessible by the students, and the educator should encourage multiple interactions with the library throughout the week and school year.

All of the strategies mentioned so far focus on the student's reading capabilities. Now, the essay will discuss the importance of encouraging writing and speaking in the classroom. One strategy that would encourage writing would be to incorporate a daily journal into the everyday functions of the classroom. Having the students summarize the concepts and/or lecture into their journals everyday helps the students retain information and helps them work on their writing skills. Further, an educator could then have students share what they documented in their journals in groups. This would then make the students talk about the information using mathematical vocabulary and enhances their speaking skills. This would show the students that the educator is fully committed to the improvement and emphasis on literacy skills in the classroom.

In conclusion, this essay has just mentioned a few effective strategies an educator can use in his/her classroom that will create a positive reading environment in his/her classroom. These strategies seem to be simple and easy to implement into any classroom. In addition, literacy skills are something a student will need to possess in order to become successful outside the classroom. Thus, a positive reading environment is imperative in a classroom that is trying to prepare students for the world outside of the classroom. The strategies mentioned in this essay are a good place to start when trying to create a positive learning environment in a classroom.

Reference

The Access Center. (2015, August 31). Literacy-Rich Environments. Retrieved December 10, 2017, from <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/literacy-rich-environments>