

SERC Library: Topical Literature Search

Reading Educational Assistance Dogs Inspire Reading Engagement in Children, K-Grade 4 November 2017

This resource document includes research articles, a video clip, and other information for schools, programs, service providers, libraries and families to enhance their understanding of how children, kindergarten through grade 4, can benefit from the supportive learning environment created by the presence of a therapy dog when practicing learning to read, as well as learning to enjoy the experience of reading. It does not represent the full scope of available resources and information on this topic nor serve as an endorsement of a particular resource.

Introductory Article:

Children Reading to Dogs: A Systematic Review of the Literature

Hall, S. S., Gee, N. R., & Mills, D. S. (2016). Children Reading to Dogs: A Systematic Review of the Literature. *Plos ONE*, 11(2), 1. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0149759

This literature review explains how the concept of therapy dogs and reading skill development in children works. Researchers have identified several positive outcomes when bringing dogs into this process. The documented effects on reading behavior include:

- Reduced reading anxiety
- Greater reading confidence
- Increased reading motivation
- Improved reading attitude
- Improved self-esteem

While evidence is compelling, more rigorous research is recommended and ongoing. Many anecdotal accounts exist. Organizations such as Intermountain Therapy Animals have shown that therapy dogs can make a difference. The interaction between a therapy dog and a child has the potential for profound positive impact in encouraging reading development in children. It starts with an interaction that avoids judgment and guarantees unconditional acceptance.

To learn more:

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=edb&AN=113218336&site=eds-live&scope=site>

For access to additional educational resources available through the SERC Library from its electronic journal database service and topical research LibGuides as well as in-person from the various instructional, assessment and other collections, please consider becoming a Library member. Membership is free and you can join online by following the link provided below.

<http://www.ctserc.org/index.php/library/library-about/library-membership>

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List of Sources:

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- Kirnan, J., Siminerio, S., & Wong, Z. (2016). The Impact of a Therapy Dog Program on Children's Reading Skills and Attitudes toward Reading. *Early Childhood Education Journal*, 44(6), 637-651. doi:10.1007/s10643-015-0747-9
- Lane, H. B., & Zavada, S. D. (2013). When Reading Gets Ruff: Canine-Assisted Reading Programs. *Reading Teacher*, 67(2), 87-95.
- Lenihan, D., McCobb, E., Diurba, A., Linder, D., & Freeman, L. (2016). Measuring the Effects of Reading Assistance Dogs on Reading Ability and Attitudes in Elementary Schoolchildren. *Journal Of Research In Childhood Education*, 30(2), 252-259. doi:10.1080/02568543.2016.1143896
- le Roux, M., Swartz, L., & Swart, E. (2014). The Effect of an Animal-Assisted Reading Program on the Reading Rate, Accuracy and Comprehension of Grade 3 Students: A Randomized Control Study. *Child & Youth Care Forum*, 43(6), 655. doi:10.1007/s10566-014-9262-1
- Pillow-Price, K., Yonts, N., & Stinson, L. (2014). Sit, Stay, Read: Improving Literacy Skills Using Dogs!. *Dimensions Of Early Childhood*, 42(1), 5-9.
- Shaw, D.M. (2013). Man's best friend as a reading facilitator. *The Reading Teacher*, 66(5), 365-371.
- SIEJKA, A. (2016). Tail Waggin' Tutors A Doggone Fun Way to Read!. *Children & Libraries: The Journal Of The Association For Library Service To Children*, 14(2), 32-33.
- You Tube. (2014, December 17). Retrieved from https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=FpO0r4mvwI8

Links to Information

Man's Best Friend as a Reading Facilitator

http://www.readdogsmn.org/uploads/8/5/3/7/8537911/read_in_reading_teacher_feb13.pdf

Measuring the Effects of Reading Assistance Dogs on Reading Ability and Attitudes in Elementary Schoolchildren

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=eh&AN=114044850&site=eds-live&scope=site>

Sit, Stay, Read: Improving Literacy Skills Using Dogs!

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=eh&AN=95402300&site=eds-live&scope=site>

Tail Waggin' Tutors: A Doggone Fun Way to Read!

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=tfh&AN=116802468&site=eds-live&scope=site>

The Effects of a Dog Reading Visitation Program on Academic Engagement Behavior in Three Elementary Students with Emotional and Behavioral Disabilities: A Single Case Design

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=edb&AN=87280722&site=eds-live&scope=site>

The Effect of an Animal-Assisted Reading Program on the Reading Rate, Accuracy and Comprehension of Grade 3 Students: A Randomized Control Study

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=edb&AN=99344876&site=eds-live&scope=site>

The Impact of a Therapy Dog Program on Children's Reading Skills and Attitudes toward Reading

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=eh&AN=118327771&site=eds-live&scope=site>

When Reading Gets Ruff: Canine-Assisted Reading Programs

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=bh&AN=90470431&site=eds-live&scope=site>

To view therapy dog assisted reading in action, please click on the link below to a You Tube presentation, which includes clips from the R.E.A.D. Night Program at the SERC Library.

https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=FpO0r4mvwI8