Young Children Reading at home and at school



Rachael Levy



Young Children Reading

Young Children Reading At home and at school

Rachael Levy



Los Angeles | London | New Delhi Singapore | Washington DC



© Rachael Levy 2011

Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of research or private study, or criticism or review, as permitted under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988, this publication may be reproduced, stored or transmitted in any form, or by any means, only with the prior permission in writing of the publishers, or in the case of reprographic reproduction, in accordance with the terms of licences issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency. Enquiries concerning reproduction outside those terms should be sent to the publishers.

SAGE Publications Ltd 1 Oliver's Yard 55 City Road London EC1Y 1SP

SAGE Publications Inc. 2455 Teller Road Thousand Oaks, California 91320

SAGE Publications India Pvt Ltd B 1/I 1 Mohan Cooperative Industrial Area Mathura Road New Delhi 110 044

SAGE Publications Asia-Pacific Pte Ltd 33 Pekin Street #02-01 Far East Square Singapore 048763

Library of Congress Control Number: 2010938739

British Library Cataloguing in Publication data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-0-85702-990-4 ISBN 978-0-85702-991-1 (pbk)

Typeset by C&M Digitals (P) Ltd, Chennai, India Printed in India at Replika Press Pvt Ltd Printed on paper from sustainable resources Dedication This book is dedicated to Daniel and Ben, who taught me so much about children and reading.

Series published in association with UKLA

The emphasis for all of the books is this series is on developing practical skills for teachers in literacy and language teaching, underpinned by accessibly presented theory and research. Dealing with topics of current and continuing interest, the books aim to inform all those concerned with the development of literacy: teachers, researchers and local authority professionals, as well as those involved in teacher education and continuing professional development.

Books in the series:

Phonics: Practice, research and policy Maureen Lewis and Sue Ellis (editors), 2006

Visual Approaches to Teaching Writing: Multimodal literacy 5-11 Eve Bearne and Helen Wolstencroft, 2007

Desirable Literacies: Approaches to Language and Literacy in the Early Years (Second Edition) Jackie Marsh and Elaine Hallett (editors), 2008

The United Kingdom Literacy Association (UKLA) is a registered charity, which has as its sole object the advancement of education in literacy at all levels and in all educational settings in the UK and overseas. Members include classroom teachers, teaching assistants, school literacy co-ordinators, LEA literacy consultants, teacher educators, researchers, inspectors, advisors, publishers and librarians.

UKLA provides a forum for discussion and debate through a wide range of international, national, regional and local conferences and publications. UKLA works with a range of government and non-governmental agencies on issues of national interest. The Association is also committed to the funding and dissemination of high-quality national and international research projects that include practitioner-researchers. This series of co-published titles with Sage Publications complements the range of in-house UKLA publications and provides a further opportunity to disseminate the high quality work of the association. In order to find out more about UKLA, including details about membership, visit: http://www.ukla.org

List of Contents

List of tables and figures Acknowledgements	
Introduction	1
Structure of the book	4
Overview of the book	5
Chapter 1 Becoming a reader in a digital age	9
Definitions of reading	10
The cognitive-psychological perspective	10
The psycho-linguistic perspective	12
The socio-political perspective	13
The socio-cultural perspective	14
The study	17
Ethical considerations	19
The research methods: designing the tools	20
The role of the researcher	21
Data collection	22
Teacher and parent interviews	31
Developing the case studies	32
Summary	33
Chapter 2 Children's perceptions of reading: defi 'reading' in the Nursery	ining 35
The Nursery cohort	37
Perceptions of being 'a reader' in Nursery	38
Perceptions of being a 'non-reader' in Nursery	42
David's story – integrated perceptions of reading	ng 44
Summary	46

Chapter 3	Children's perceptions of reading: defining 'reading' in Reception	47
The Rec	reption cohort	47
Perce	Perceptions of being 'a reader' in Reception	
Perce	Perceptions of being a 'non-reader' in Reception	
Reading words, reading pictures, reading whole texts		55
Davi	d's story: schooled reading – devoid of meaning	61
Summa	ry	63
Chapter 4	Perceived uses and affordances of book texts	65
The affo	ordance and uses of books	66
Reading 'a reade	scheme texts: proficiency grading and becoming r'	70
Read	ing schemes: discouraging reading	73
Summa	ry	81
Chapter 5	Reading in multidimensional forms	84
Digital	literacy	85
Using c	omputers at home and at school	87
Read	ing computer texts	88
Respon	ding to print on screen	89
Reading	g print on paper and screen	92
Reading	g print in multidimensional forms	97
Summa	ry	100
Chapter 6	What reading means at home and at school	102
Develop	ping perceptions of reading during the Nursery year	104
Moving	into Reception – changes in the third space	109
Parents	confidence and contention in the third space	114
Summa	ry	118
Chapter 7	From research to practice	120
Percepti	ons of reading	121
Role of	play	124

The teacher-pupil relationship	126
Print reading and the use of reading scheme texts	129
Digital texts and new technologies	133
Summary	134
Conclusion	136
A Foundation Curriculum: promoting confidence in reading	137
Assessment	141
Future research	142
Conclusion	144
	1 4 5
List of references	145
Index	153

List of Tables and Figures

Tables

Table 1.1	Children's details	18
Table 1.2	Overview of data collection	23
Table 1.3	Overview of school-based activities with children	25
Table 1.4	Using the Bob the Builder games	29
Table 1.5	Pictures used during the Smiley Face activity	30

Figures

Figure 1.1	Small World Play	22
Figure 1.2	Pictures of skills used in the Learning Skills activity	26
Figure 1.3	Popular Culture cards	27
Figure 1.4	Sliding scale of Smiley Faces	30
Figure 1.5	Examples of questions asked to parents	32
Figure 1.6	Examples of questions asked to teachers	32
Figure 1.7	Example of a thematic strand within data collection	33
Figure 3.1	Perceptions of reading as an ability to read pictures and print	52
Figure 3.2	Perceptions of reading as an ability to read books	54
Figure 4.1	Definition of terms	66
Figure 6.1	Application of 'third space theory'	104
Figure 6.2	Shaun: third space in between discourses of home and school	110
Figure 6.3	Caitlyn: third space in between discourses of	
0	home and school	113

Acknowledgements

First and foremost, thanks go to the ESRC for funding the doctoral study behind this book and funding a post-doctoral fellowship which has allowed time and support for the creation of this publication.

Sincere thanks also go to the children, parents and staff at Oakfield Primary School for allowing me this privileged opportunity to work so closely with them.

Special thanks go to Professor Jackie Marsh for her comments on drafts of this book, as well as her sustained interest and enthusiasm for the work.

Many thanks also go to Dr Eve Bearne and Dr Linda Hargreaves, who supervised my PhD and helped to guide the project at the heart of this book.

Thanks also go to my colleagues at the School of Education, University of Sheffield, for their continual support and interest in the writing of this book.

Finally, I extend my gratitude to my family and friends who have shown unwavering support while I have been writing this book. I am especially grateful to my husband, Nicholas, for his encouragement and commitment to all aspects of my study and work.

All names of individuals and settings mentioned in the book have been changed.

About the Author

Rachael Levy B(Ed), M Phil, PhD, is a Lecturer in Early Years Education at the University of Sheffield. She is responsible for the teaching and supervision of Masters, Ed D and PhD students studying various aspects of early childhood education. Having worked as a primary school teacher in London and in Cambridge, Rachael first began researching young children's perceptions of reading through the context of an M Phil in Teaching and Teacher Education. Following this, Rachael received an ESRC Studentship which allowed her to continue her studies to doctoral level at the University of Cambridge.

In July 2008, Rachael was awarded the UKLA Post Graduate Research Prize for her doctoral thesis. Rachael was also awarded an ESRC Post Doctoral Fellowship in the same year, which she completed at the School of Education, University of Sheffield. In addition to this book, Rachael has also published her work in a number of peer-reviewed journals and she has contributed chapters to other books in the field. As well as her interests in literacy and reading education, Rachael is also concerned about developing ways in which to access the voices of young children in participatory research.