Why Closing the Word Gap Matters

CLOSING THE WORD GAP WITH READING FOR PLEASURE

92% of primary and 86% of secondary teachers said that the role of parents/caregivers is extremely important in improving children's vocabulary.

37% of primary and 41% of secondary teachers said access to a greater breadth and variety of reading books would make the biggest difference in helping children improve their vocabulary.

PARENTS/CAREGIVERS CAN SUPPORT CHILDREN BY READING TO THEM AND ENCOURAGING READING

“Helping children hear, notice and experience language emotionally, aesthetically and artistically enables them to try on others’ voices and in the process enrich their own.” – Professor Teresa Cremin, The Open University

“We need to give children the time they need to enjoy stories, poetry and literature – particularly in the early years.” – Michael Morpurgo, former Children’s Laureate

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“Reading and listening to a wide range of texts gives children a reservoir of language that they can draw on when they wish to communicate their own ideas.” – James Clements, education writer and former teacher

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“Schools can play a major role in developing both a love of reading and by making available a wide range of interesting and accessible texts... Reading for pleasure is an issue of social justice and one that society cannot afford to ignore.” – Dr Ian Thompson and Nicole Dingwall, University of Oxford

93% of teachers say having access to classic stories was vital to develop a love of reading.

[Source: OUP, Reading for Pleasure Report 2016]

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