Enhancing Intrinsic Reading Motivation in Elementary Students

Alexandra Bidner  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Kasey Reaber  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Leah Nillas, Faculty Advisor  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

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Alexandra Bidner, Kasey Reaber and Leah Nillas*
Educational Studies, Illinois Wesleyan University

Research Question
What physical and social approaches can be used to support students in becoming motivated readers?

Literature Review
• “If intrinsically motivated, reading will be viewed as a meaningful challenge” (Marinak, Malloy & Gambrell, 2010).
• Having a positive, social environment for students supports more exploration in various reading categories.
• Student autonomy generates more academic achievement while promoting intrinsically motivated reading.
• By creating a comfortable environment, students are able to demonstrate more focus and productivity.
• “...When teachers provide a sense of control and autonomy over their learning, there are positive results for student motivation.” (Barber & Buehl, 2013)

Methodology
• Participants: 21 first grade students and 27 fourth grade students both in central Illinois.
• We analyzed journal entries, field notes, photographs, guest speaker notes, interviews, and questionnaires to show how change in the environment motivated students to read.
• Beanbags, pillows, and blankets were used to encourage independent reading.

Results and Data Analysis
• Some students were more focused than others depending on the environment that they were placed in.
• Sixty-three percent of students were highly responsive to reading outside the classroom.
• When the guest reader was unknown, students showed more enthusiasm.
• Sixty-two percent of students viewed reading as an inherently social activity.

Conclusion
• Educators should provide various environments for students to read. Desirable environments leads to more concentration while reading.
• Inviting guests into the classroom is conducive to promoting social interactions between readers.