

Project Number: 2010/0512

Title: Learning English with Dialogic Reading and Creative Books in Primary School Classroom

Project Leader: Dr. Chow Wing Yin, Department of Applied Social Studies, City University of Hong Kong

Project Summary

Goals and objectives. This project aims to improve Hong Kong primary school students' English skills and creativity through classroom literacy activities which make learning enjoyable and interesting. We aim to pave the road for learning English with joy and interest in children, instead of studying it by rote memorization from textbooks and exercises. Our goal is to develop effective and innovative English instruction methods which enhance language and reading proficiency, promote interest and positive attitudes in reading, and encourage creativity through language activities, as highlighted in our English language education curriculum.

To achieve this aim, we seek to apply dialogic reading, which is an interactive adult-child shared reading method, and reading in creative texts in classroom. We will employ a rigorous experimental design to objectively evaluate the proposed program. This proposed project will contribute to the English language education curriculum development and will facilitate the construction of an effective English learning environment for our children. The ultimate goal is to prepare students for reading to learn and becoming lifelong learners.

Targets/Beneficiaries. This proposed project will benefit primary schools and their students. It will provide useful resources for primary school teachers and principals to create a stimulating and enjoyable English learning environment for students. The immediate beneficiaries will be the 2 participating schools and the 240 participating students. Based on the materials developed and feedbacks obtained from this project, a manual and a website will be produced. 1000 copies of manuals will be produced and sent to primary schools in Hong Kong. Also, the website will be made available to schools and the general public. Ultimately, all primary schools in Hong Kong will be benefited by the materials, manual and website developed in this project.

Implementation Plan.

This project will involve approximately 240 Primary Grade 2 students in 2 primary schools. 2 schools, including Christian Alliance H.C. Chan Primary School and Ng Wah Catholic Primary School, have agreed to participate in this project. It will commence on 1 March 2012 and will finish on 31 Dec 2013. In this period, we seek to accomplish the following:

- 1) Material preparation and production
 - i) Select and purchase children's storybooks; ii) Develop dialogic reading and reading in creative texts materials
- 2) Implementation planning
 - i) Work with principals and teachers on the best way to implement the program in classroom
 - ii) Train teachers in dialogic reading techniques and the use of creative texts in shared reading
- 3) Pretest children on language and reading skills, reading interest, and creativity
- 4) 12-week reading program (intervention groups vs a control group)
- 5) Posttest children on language and reading skills, reading interest, and creativity. Teachers will also be interviewed about their reactions to the reading program
- 6) Analyze the data with statistical packages and draw conclusions
- 7) Create a manual and a website to be made available to all primary schools

Products (deliverables / outcomes, dissemination of deliverables / outcomes, commercialization potential of deliverables / outcomes). This project will facilitate English learning with joy in primary school students. It will adapt dialogic reading methods and reading in creative texts in local classrooms, and will promote a more interactive English learning environment in local classrooms. It is expected that students' English language and reading abilities, interest in learning English, and creativity, will be enhanced through these innovative and interactive reading methods.

We aim to develop a manual and a website to be made available to all primary schools. They contain comprehensive information about children's reading and creativity development, and methods that local schools could employ in enhancing the children's reading and creativity abilities, including dialogic reading and reading with creative texts. Also, this project will result in 2-3 journal publications on the topic of Hong Kong children's English learning and creativity development.

Budget. The total cost of this research is \$523,853 (\$523,900, nearest hundred), including \$307,156 in staff cost, \$16,000 in services, \$83,240 in equipment, \$111,465 in general expenses, and \$5,992 in contingency.

Evaluation Parameters and Method. We will use a rigorous experimental approach with objective tests to evaluate the utility of the English dialogic reading and reading in creative texts against typical and baseline methods which teachers and children already use in classrooms.