

Young children's reading attitudes, confidence and attainment

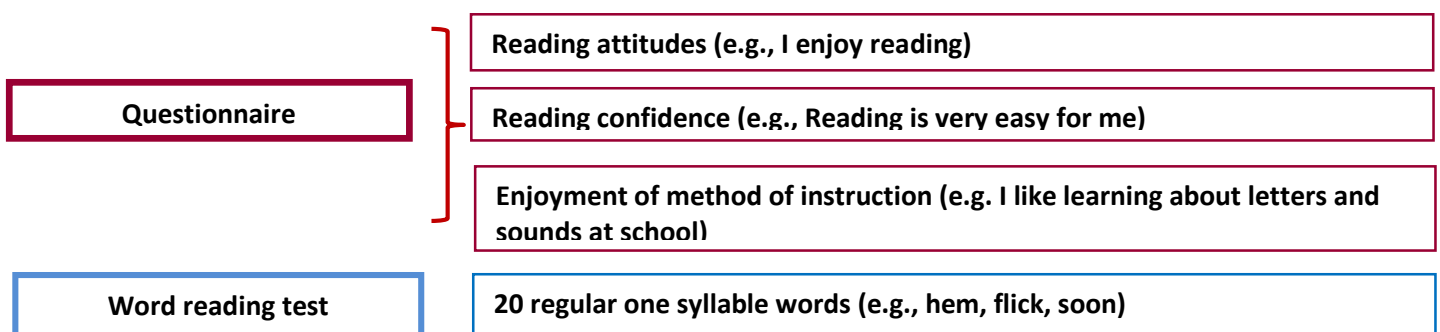
A summary for teachers

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Background: At present, there is little research examining the relationship between young children's attitudes to reading, confidence in the reading skills and reading attainment. Furthermore, research exploring the relationship between children's enjoyment of their method of reading instruction and their early reading attitudes, confidence and word reading skills is limited.

Aim: To understand the relationship between young children's reading attitudes, reading confidence, enjoyment of learning to read and reading attainment.

Participants: 203 children (aged 6-7) from 11 primary schools completed a questionnaire assessing their reading attitudes, confidence and enjoyment of learning to read. All children also completed assessments of word reading skill. The questionnaire and word reading assessment were individually administered.



	Reading attitudes	Reading confidence	Enjoy learning to read
Reading attitudes	---		
Reading confidence	.33**	---	
Enjoy learning to read	.40**	.34**	
Word reading skill	.34**	.35**	.27**

** statistically significant, $p < .01$. 1 = perfect relationship, 0 = no relationship

Results: Children's attitudes to reading and confidence in their reading skills were related to their word reading skills. In addition, children's reported enjoyment of their method of reading instruction were correlated with their reading attitudes, confidence and attainment.

Sex differences were also found. After taking into account differences in word reading skills, girls still had more positive attitudes to reading.

Discussion and implications for education:

In addition to developing word reading skills, teachers should focus on fostering positive attitudes to reading and building confidence in reading skills at an early age.

Ensuring methods of reading instruction are engaging and enjoyable is also important, given the significant relationship between enjoyment of learning to read, reading attitudes, confidence and attainment.



Academic paper: McGeown, S. P., Johnson, R. S., Walker, J., Howatson, K., Stockburn, A., & Dufton, P. (2015). The relationship between young children's enjoyment of learning to read, reading attitudes, confidence and attainment. *Educational Research*, 57, 389-402