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Infant teacher from 1950-1988. 4305

I taught infants from 1950-1988 so I taught using traditional methods and materials as well as using modern methods and materials. Using the latter, I was almost a failure.

- I believe we need to re-visit history to re-discover basic truths about education.
- I believe many boys are failing because they cannot read automatically and are so literacy disabled in almost every area of later learning, thus under-performing.
- From birth, it has been recognized that the brains of boys and girls differ.

From birth, boys are behind the cognitive

8 ball - more likely to be colourblind

- more likely to be autistic

- slower to learn language

- more likely to develop stammers

- Before modern methods were (stutters) adopted ca 1960 there was no concern that boys were performing poorly. Since then, in the infant years of school, boys are more likely than girls to develop dyslexia or Specific

Learning Difficulties and ADHD both Hyper and Hypo

- The first 2 to 3 years at school used to set the foundations for both literacy and numeracy. We spent two years helping children learn to read and they spent the rest of their years reading to learn.
- Those first 2 years were devoted to teaching ~~reading~~ literacy skills. The modern idea is that skills are not learned FOR application but THROUGH application. Thus, today's child has to read to learn to read and to write to learn to write.
- Please note that the results you are investigating today would be worse were it not for the fact that parents are supposed to help with reading from Week One of Year One

- Many also pay large sums to have their child tutored to learn to read.
- Modern methods which, incidentally, rely more on the child learning than on the teacher teaching, do not suit the male brain. Learning to read requires the integration of the visual, auditory, language and, possibly, other areas of the ~~g~~ developing brain.
- Male brains mono-track. They prefer to look OR to listen OR to speak. They need structured, integrated teaching to help them learn the extremely complex skill of reading. By comparison, ~~the~~ female brains multi-track.
- Modern methods don't teach. They expect the child to learn. This requires inferring and once again, the female has the advantage. She has a richer thicker band of nerves

connecting her two hemispheres so that she can use the strengths of both in the learning-to-read process. The r. hs. is intuitive.

— ~~The~~ most important historical aspect of reading should be considered. In the early years of the 1900's, ~~reading~~ the teaching of reading was based on phonic-teaching. In the 1920's reading researchers discovered that the eyes of the competent ADULT reader took in several words ~~shapes~~ at a glance - so, completely ignoring the years of practice that went into fine-tuning this skill, it was decided to TEACH 5 year olds in the manner they would use as adults. So look-and-say or whole-words and the reading of phrases were the favoured teaching techniques. Within a decade, ^{major} ~~Rudolf~~ reading problems surfaced and Rudolf

Flesch wrote "Why Johnny Can't Read." This had such an impact on the public that parents pressured for and succeeded in forcing a return to ~~initial~~ phonic-based teaching in the early years. That resulted, later, in the compiling of these 4 Preparatory readers which do what the name suggests. They prepare the child for reading.

Please note, Flesch wrote about "Johnny". Here we are today, 40 years after this non-teaching method was re-introduced and after spending millions of ~~dollar~~ on reading resources, why our Johnnies are failing in the system. The inquiry should investigate the pros and cons of traditional teaching methods and give back to Johnny the logical, sequential, structured, analytical

teaching which his brain craves.

- Every innovation in the modern classroom

- sitting side-on to the board

- group work

the read-by-reading ~~and~~

~~so-called individual teaching~~

the write-by-writing methods

places Johnny at a disadvantage from Day One

of Year One. Being a male, the young adult

Johnny is more likely than his female counter-

part to turn to drugs, crime and even suicide.

But he is more likely to be attracted to these

options if he has failed from the beginning

in the school system and lacks ~~the~~ self esteem

No child - boy or girl - of average intelligence

let alone of above-average intelligence should

fail to learn to read. To allow a child to grow

up literacy disabled by ~~or~~ recycling a failed

procedure is one of the worst forms of child

abuse there is. We have spent 40 years trying to make the child fit the theory rather than have the theory fit the child.

Abstracts involving the use of symbols should be rigorously taught rather than be left to be "picked up."

Teaching phonics

sequential - eg don't do dog's tail before
one dog, two dogs
don't do multiplication before
addition

Trad. teaching didn't ask for writing stories before being taught to ~~write~~ write (ie necessary directional movements.)