



DGMT
Create Change

Experience. Tools. Ideas.

www.dgmt.co.za

Reading for pleasure



develops:

- vocabulary
- grammar
- writing style
- spelling

Literacy development happens when we **UNDERSTAND** what we read.

Numerous studies show



...the more we read...

...the better we read...

...the more we enjoy it...

Toddlers who know more words read better in school later, and...



...school-going children who read for pleasure perform better in all subjects, including **MATHS!**



How many **WORDS** have children heard by the time they are 3?

48
MILLION WORDS

Families who receive welfare benefits

13
MILLION WORDS

Parents who have professional jobs



Around the world children growing up in poverty struggle to read, **BUT...**



...studies show that when poor children are exposed to books they start to read better.

Reading for pleasure has a stronger impact on educational achievement than the socio-economic status of parents!

References:

- 1-2. Krashen, S. 2015. Free Voluntary Reading: The Most Powerful Tool We Have in Language Education. Access at: www.dgmt.co.za
3. Sénéchal, M., Ouellette, G., & Rodney, D. (2006). The misunderstood giant: On the predictive role of early vocabulary in future reading. In D. Dickinson, & S.B. Neuman (Vol. Eds.). Handbook of Early Literacy Research, Vol. 2 (pp. 173-184). New York, NY: Guilford Press.
4. Sullivan, A. & Brown, M. 2013. Social inequalities in cognitive scores at age 16: The role of reading. Institute of Education: University of London
5. Hart, B. & Risley, T.R. "The Early Catastrophe: The 30 Million Word Gap by Age 3" (2003, spring). American Educator, pp.4-9
6. Sullivan & Brown. Social inequalities in cognitive scores at age 16.
7. Krashen, S. 2004. The Power of Reading: Insights from the Research. Libraries Unlimited: Westport
8. Department of Education - United Kingdom. 2012. Research evidence for reading for pleasure. Access at: www.gov.uk
- 9-11. South African Book Development Council. 2007. National survey into the reading and book reading behaviour of adult South Africans. Access at: www.dac.gov.za
12. Spaul, N. 2013. South Africa's Education Crisis: The quality of education in South Africa 1994-2011. Access from: nickspaul.com
13. M. Gustafsson, S. Van der Berg, D. Shepherd and C. Burger. 2010. The costs of illiteracy in South Africa. Access from: https://ideas.repec.org/p/sza/wpaper/wpapers113.html
14. Clark, C., and Douglas, J. (2011) Young People's Reading and Writing An in-depth study focusing on enjoyment, behaviour, attitudes and attainment: National Literacy Trust

In South Africa...



95% of parents don't read to their children



51% of homes don't have leisure books



85% of people cannot easily reach a public library



29% of 13-year-olds are functionally illiterate

South Africa Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

GDP per capita would be 23% to 30% higher if all South Africans were sufficiently literate to participate in the formal economy.