

10 Characteristics of a Successful Extensive Reading Program

- 1) Students read as much as possible, perhaps in and definitely out of the classroom.
- 2) A variety of materials on a wide range of topics is available so as to encourage reading for different reasons and in different ways.
- 3) Students select what they want to read and have the freedom to stop reading material that fails to interest them.
- 4) The purposes of reading are usually related to pleasure, information and general understanding. These purposes are determined by the nature of the material and the interests of the students.
- 5) Reading is its own reward. There are few or no follow-up exercises to be completed after reading.
- 6) Reading materials are well within the linguistic competence of the students in terms of vocabulary and grammar. Dictionaries are rarely used while reading because the constant stopping to look up words makes fluent reading difficult.
- 7) Reading is individual and silent, at the student's own pace, and, outside class, done when and where the student chooses.
- 8) Reading speed is usually faster rather than slower as students read books and other material that they find easily understandable.
- 9) Teachers orient students to the goals of the program, explain the methodology, keep track of what each student reads, and guide students in getting the most out of the program.
- 10) The teacher is a role model of a reader for students -- an active member of the classroom reading community, demonstrating what it means to be a reader and the rewards of being a reader.