

Independent Reading

Reading Achievement and Vocabulary Exposure

Some students in America are reading a lot more than others, are encountering many more words per year than others, and are reading better than others. This study by Anderson, Wilson, and Fielding found that the amount of time a child spent reading was strongly correlated with the scores the child earned on tests of reading proficiency. The students who read more, read better. They found that the students in the highest category in terms of amount of reading, read books, magazines, newspapers, comic books, and mail for more than an hour each day. Students who read more, scored better on reading tests, and "...time spent reading books was the best predictor of a child's growth as a reader from the second to the fifth grade." (p. 294)

PERCENTILE RANK (IN TERMS OF AMOUNT OF READING)	MINUTES PER DAY	WORDS PER YEAR
98th	67.3	4,733,000
90th	33.4	2,355,000
70th	16.9	1,168,000
50th	9.2	601,000
30th	4.3	251,000
10th	1.0	51,000
2nd	0	-