

ABSTRACT

An Investigation Into the Use of Computers to Change the Negative Attitude of Boys to Reading and Reading Related Activities

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This study sought to explore the extent to which computer programmes could be used in the classroom to positively influence the attitudes of boys to reading and reading-related activities. The participants in this action research project were 14 boys at a primary school in Trinidad and Tobago. Reading instruction was carried out using the computer, and the students were required to use computers to complete their assignments and present their work. The findings suggested that: (a) computer programs such as Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Paint could be used effectively during reading instruction; (b) the use of computers during reading instruction had a positive effect on the attitudes of the students with respect to their overall attitudes to reading-related activities in class; and (c) the use of computers fostered positive attitudes in the students, in that they participated in the activities presented and completed the assignments given. However, the intervention did not yield any significant evidence of a change in the attitudes of the students with respect to further reading and reading for pleasure.

Keywords: Male students; Student attitudes; Educational technology; Reading instruction; Teaching methods; Action research; Primary school students; Computer assisted learning; Case studies; Trinidad and Tobago