



Scripted reading lessons and evidence for their efficacy

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#LetGirlsLearn

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Purpose of scripted reading lessons

- ✓ to provide effective explanations of new concepts
- ✓ to offer appropriate examples of the skill or concept being taught
- ✓ to provide practice activities that directly reinforce instruction



Purpose (cont'd)

- ✓ to provide models for appropriate scaffolding and error correction
- ✓ to help with pacing

Scripted lessons help focus instruction by providing consistent language and maintaining fidelity to the lesson's objectives.

Scripted lessons provide quality standardization for a reading program

“We have a term within the organization which is ‘relentlessness’... And relentlessness means that you don’t just give it your best shot and hope for the best... We want every minute of the school day used for productive activities that we know from research to be the most effective things we can provide.”

(Robert Slavin)

Scripted lessons

Critical features of effective scripted lessons include:

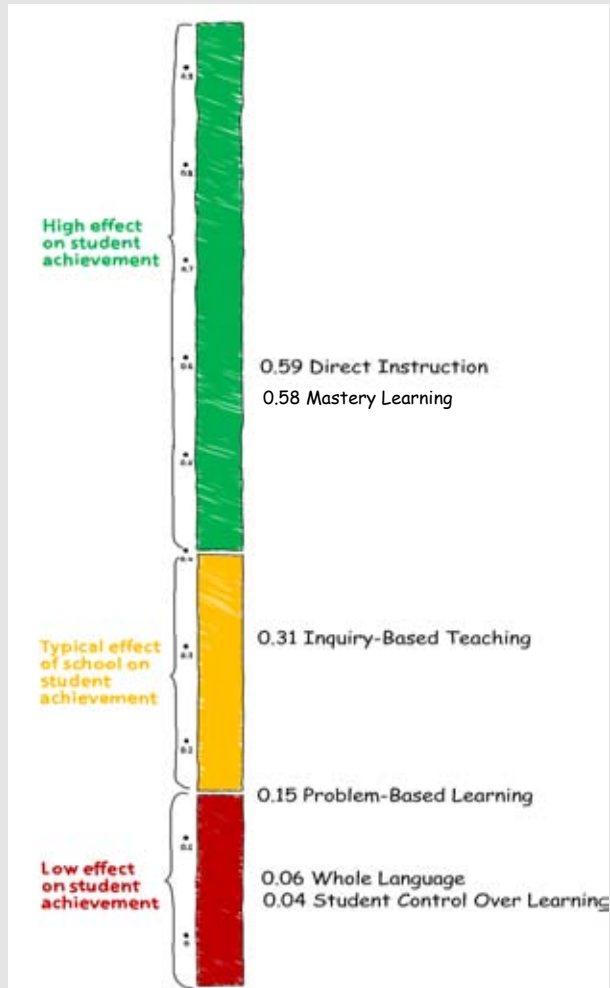
- highly sequenced instruction
- clear and concise directions
- teacher guidance
- active student participation
- assessment probes in order to practice and master new knowledge and skills

Research Evidence



Explicit/direct
instruction = scripted
lessons

John Hattie's research
synthesis from 800
meta-analyses (2009)



Effective scripted lessons are

- Interactive
- Engaging
- Supporting student learning at all levels

(Hempenstall, 1990; Gersten, Schiller, & Vaughn, 2000; Rosenshine, 1980)

Higher order skills and explicit instruction: are they mutually exclusive?

No.

Cognitive research shows that higher order thinking requires strongly established basic skills and a lot of factual knowledge.

Cognitive leaps, intuition, and inspiration are facilitated when an individual has developed automaticity in basic skills. ***You leap over the more basic work by being able to do it without thinking much about it, not by ignoring it.***

Information processing research




The information-processing research findings apply in three areas:

- the limits of our working memory (*teacher breaks material into small steps to reduce confusion*)
- the importance of practice (*active practice to move new learning into long-term memory*)
- the importance of continuing until students are fluent (*so learners are using new skills effortlessly*)

(Rosenshine, 1986)

Letter Knowledge: Letter Names and Sounds

Now we will practise the English names and sounds of the letters we have learned.

 "I do"	 "We do"	 "You do"
<p>Step 1: <i>Put the capital letter L on the board/pocket chart. Point to the letter and say:</i></p> <p>T: The name of the first letter is L. It is the capital letter L. T: The sound is /l/.</p>	<p>Step 2: T: Let's do it together. The name of this letter is? T & L: L T: The sound of this letter is? T & L: /l/.</p>	<p>Step 3: T: Now you do it alone. The name of this letter is? L: L T: The sound of this letter is? L: /l/.</p> <p><i>Repeat steps 1-3 with examples below.</i> I, S, E, M, A, T</p>

Are scripted lessons only for beginning teachers?

Not necessarily!

Scripted lessons can be very effective for more experienced teachers, too.

Using scripts can sharpen and focus instructional language and procedures.

Are scripted lessons only for beginning readers?

No!

Scripted lessons can be very effective for teaching concepts and skills in the upper elementary grades such as:

- Strategies for comprehension
- Vocabulary words
- Content knowledge
- Oral language skills



Debunking the myths

Myth

Scripted lessons are “drill and kill” and involve only rote learning. Teachers should focus on higher order thinking skills.

Reality

Effective scripted lessons include systematic practice and address learning in both rote skills and general comprehension and higher level skills. Students cannot learn higher order skills without having a strong foundation in basic skills.

(Lemov, Woolway, & Yezzi, 2012, p. 37-38)

Debunking the myths

Myth

Scripted lessons take the 'creativity' away from a teacher

Reality

Teachers follow a scope and sequence of instruction provided by the curriculum, but teachers often have MORE time to add creative elements to their teaching while following the scripted lessons.

Thank you!



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