

Reciprocal Reading: a training programme for teachers aimed at improving reading skills of pupils

Submission date 15/06/2017	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	☐ Prospectively registered ☒ Protocol
Registration date 23/06/2017	Overall study status Completed	☐ Statistical analysis plan ☒ Results
Last Edited 12/08/2022	Condition category Other	☐ Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

Reading comprehension is a foundational skill for learning and there is currently international focus on explicitly targeting pupils' reading comprehension skills. Reciprocal reading is a programme that targets pupils' ability to use active strategies to enhance their understanding of what they are reading. This is done by teaching pupils to use four strategies – summarising, questioning, predicting and clarifying. After using these strategies in dialogue with an adult and their peers, pupils carry out learning tasks to consolidate their understanding of what they have read. The programme aims to explicitly teach reading comprehension strategies in order to improve reading skills. The programme can be used with whole-classes or with targeted groups of pupils who are weak at reading comprehension, but who have relatively stronger reading decoding skills. The aim of this study is to find out whether the FFT Reciprocal Reading programme has an impact on children's reading skills. It also examines factors associated with the delivery of the programme by speaking to teachers and pupils about their experiences.

Who can participate?

State-funded primary schools in England which have not previously received the Fischer Family Trust literacy package of training (external and internal) to deliver Reciprocal Reading and which are not currently involved in any other EEF KS2 literacy trials. Pupils entering Year 4 in the 2017/18 academic year are considered as potential participants for the whole-class programme and pupils entering Year 5 and 6 in the 2017/18 academic year who have poor comprehension skills, but stronger decoding skills (as selected by teachers), are eligible for the targeted programme.

What does the study involve?

Participating schools are randomly allocated to either the intervention group, which receives the reciprocal reading training programme, or a control group, who do not receive the training programme. Teachers and teaching assistants of Year 4, 5 and 6 classes in the schools which deliver the FFT Reciprocal Reading programme receive two external training sessions from Fischer Family Trust, as well as three internal follow-up sessions. Teachers and teaching assistants use their training to deliver the programme over two terms. The Fischer Family Trust (FFT) Reciprocal Reading programme is delivered by teachers or teaching assistants over the

course of two school terms. In the whole-class version sessions are delivered once a week and in the targeted version sessions are delivered twice a week, for 20-30 minutes. Teachers are asked to complete a reading test with participating pupils before the programme is started (May to July 2017). After two terms (April to June 2018) the participating pupils complete another reading test. Interviews are also carried out with teaching staff and pupils and there are observations of the programme being delivered in a sample of the schools. The data is analysed to answer the question of whether the FFT Reciprocal Reading programme impacts children's reading skills.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

Benefits to participating schools include the provision of training, materials and ongoing support for the delivery of the FFT Reciprocal Reading programme during the 2017/18 school year. There are no risks associated with participating.

Where is the study run from?

The evaluation is run by an independent evaluation team based at Queen's University Belfast. The programme delivery is managed and supported by the charity Fischer Family Trust Literacy based in Middlesbrough (UK).

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

January 2017 to December 2018

Who is funding the study?

Education Endowment Foundation (UK)

Who is the main contact?

Dr Liam O'Hare

Contact information

Type(s)

Public

Contact name

Dr Liam O'Hare

Contact details

School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work
Queen's University
69-71 University Street
Belfast
United Kingdom
BT7 1HL

Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number

Reciprocal reading trial

Study information

Scientific Title

A cluster randomised controlled trial of Reciprocal Reading: a training programme for teachers aimed at improving reading skills of pupils

Study objectives

1. Does the universal Reciprocal Reading approach impact pupil reading outcomes?
2. Does the targeted Reciprocal Reading approach impact pupil reading outcomes?

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work Research Ethics Committee, Queen's University Belfast, 16/02/2017

Primary study design

Interventional

Study design

Cluster randomised controlled trial

Study type(s)

Other

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Literacy attainment

Interventions

Participating schools are randomised (minimisation via QMinim programme) to either the intervention group, which receives the reciprocal reading training programme, or a control group, whom will not receive the training programme.

Teachers and teaching assistants of Year 4, 5 and 6 classes in the schools which deliver the FFT Reciprocal Reading programme will receive two external training sessions from Fischer Family Trust, as well as three internal follow-up sessions. Training for the whole-class and targeted programme is similar.

Training for the whole-class and targeted programme is similar. Teachers and teaching assistants engage initially in one full day's training with FFT which covers the following: background to reciprocal reading, rationale and evidence for the programme, understanding the four reciprocal reading strategies; what reading comprehension involves, why it is difficult and what weak comprehenders do, vocabulary and comprehension monitoring, what reciprocal readers do; whole-school issues including the benefits of consistent comprehension practices and policy-building; the 'simple view of reading' as a way to identify which children might benefit most from reciprocal reading; managing the practical implementation of the programme including planning and recording techniques; observation of training video illustrating the intervention with discussion of potential barriers to engagement; preparing a reciprocal reading session and implementing it in the training context; practicalities and discussion of what can and cannot be adapted.

The programme is then implemented in school by the trained professionals for half a term after which a consultation visit from FFT takes place. Practitioners are supported to reflect on and audit their practice.

At the start of the second term of the academic year there is a second full training day which includes the following: modelling of a reciprocal reading session; demonstration of activities to follow-up reciprocal reading sessions (book journal activities); discussion of implementation experiences; how to introduce challenge into sessions using questioning and modelling, text choices and follow-up activities; discussion of check-list for implementation; understanding the role of the teacher as facilitator; feedback to students; pupil self-evaluation. A further visit from FFT will include observation of lesson implementation.

A third consultation visit in the final term of the academic year will address whole-school ethos and culture around comprehension, further auditing of implementation of the programme and consideration of the potential for programme to impact across the curriculum.

Teachers and teaching assistants deliver the programme over two terms. Pupils entering Year 4 in the 2017/18 academic year will be considered as potential participants for the whole-class programme and pupils entering Year 5 and 6 in the 2017/18 academic year who have poor comprehension skills, but stronger decoding skills (as selected by teachers), will be eligible for the targeted programme. In the whole-class version sessions are delivered once a week and in the targeted version sessions are delivered twice a week, for 20-30 minutes.

Teachers are asked to complete a reading test (New Group Reading Test - Granada Learning) with participating pupils before the programme is implemented (May to July 2017). After two terms (April to June 2018) the participating pupils will complete another reading test (New Group Reading Test). Interviews are also carried out with teaching staff and pupils and there will be observations of the programme being delivered in a sample of the schools. The data will be analysed to answer the question of whether the FFT Reciprocal Reading programme impacts children's reading skills.

Intervention Type

Behavioural

Primary outcome(s)

Reading comprehension, measured using New Group Reading Test scores at baseline and 6-8 months (exact timing will vary by school)

Key secondary outcome(s)

Reading and decoding, measured using New Group Reading Test scores at baseline and 6-8 months (exact timing will vary by school)

Completion date

31/12/2018

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

1. State-funded primary schools in England which have not previously received the Fischer Family Trust literacy package of training (external and internal) to deliver Reciprocal Reading and which are not currently involved in any other EEF Key Stage 2 literacy trials

2. Pupils entering Year 4 in the 2017/18 academic year will be considered as potential participants for the whole-class programme
3. Pupils entering Year 5 and 6 in the 2017/18 academic year who have poor comprehension skills, but stronger decoding skills (as selected by teachers), will be eligible for the targeted programme

Participant type(s)

Other

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Child

Sex

All

Key exclusion criteria

1. Schools not in England
2. Non state-funded schools
3. Schools which are involved in other EEF Key Stage 2 literacy trials
4. Schools which have previously received the Fischer Family Trust literacy package of training to deliver Reciprocal Reading

Date of first enrolment

01/01/2017

Date of final enrolment

30/06/2017

Locations**Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

Northern Ireland

Study participating centre**Queen's University Belfast**

School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work

69-71 University Street

Belfast

United Kingdom

BT7 1HL

Sponsor information

Organisation

Queen's University Belfast

ROR

<https://ror.org/00hswnk62>

Funder(s)**Funder type**

Charity

Funder Name

Education Endowment Foundation

Results and Publications**Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan**

The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study will be stored in a repository (Fischer Family Trust Data lab, <http://educationdatalab.org.uk/>) and will be available in Summer 2019. Consent from the participants was included in the ethics consent. Scores for the Granada New Group Reading Test are anonymized at the point of UP (unique pupil number).

IPD sharing plan summary

Stored in repository

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Protocol article		01/01/2018	12/08/2022	Yes	No
Funder report results	final report		09/12/2019	No	No
Study website	Study website	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes