

effective

Characteristics of  
Teachers Who Are  
*Effective in Teaching  
All Children to Read*

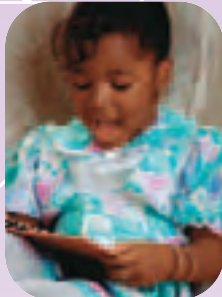


reading



*Barbara M. Taylor*  
*University of Minnesota / CIERA*

instruction



NEA has produced additional booklets related to reading.

The titles are:

Advice on Reading from Experts: Teachers

*Based on the report of the  
National Education Association  
Task Force on Reading*

Beginning Reading Instruction

The Rest of the Story from Research

*by Michael Pressley  
Based on a paper prepared for the  
National Reading Conference*

Research-Supported Characteristics of  
Teachers and Schools That Promote Reading  
Achievement

*by Barbara M. Taylor  
by Michael Pressley  
by David Pearson*

Characteristics of Schools

that Are Effective in Teaching All Children to Read

*by Barbara M. Taylor*



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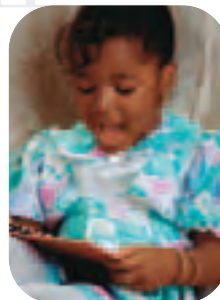
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*June 2002*



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# Table of Contents

Intro .....	5
Instructional Balance .....	6
Higher-level Thinking.....	8
Skills and Strategies .....	10
Coaching Focus .....	12
Fostering Self-regulation .....	14
Motivating Instruction .....	16
High Expectations.....	18
Classroom Managers .....	20
Parent Relationships .....	22
Additional Resources.....	24

## National Education Association

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Intro



Research from the 1970s and 1980s on the characteristics of effective elementary school teachers highlighted the importance of a strong academic focus, explicit instruction, and high levels of pupils on task (Hoffman, 1991). Extending this earlier research, recent large-scale studies on effective teachers of reading have highlighted the importance of motivating and balanced instruction, the teaching of strategies as well as skills, the encouragement of higher-level thinking, and the use of coaching as children are reading and writing. Common findings across recent studies on effective elementary teachers of reading are highlighted in the following pages.

reading



instruction



# Instructional Balance

**E**ffective teachers of reading maintain instructional balance. They teach basic skills as needed but do not overemphasize them.

Barrera, R., & Jimenez, R. (2002). Bilingual teachers speak about their literacy instruction. In B. M. Taylor, & P. D. Pearson, (Eds.), *Teaching reading: Effective schools, accomplished teachers* (pp. 335-360). Mahwah, N.J.: Erlbaum.

Pressley, M., Wharton-McDonald, R., Allington, R., Block, C. C., Morrow, L., Tracey, D., Baker, K., Brooks, G., Cronin, J., Nelson, E., & Woo, D. (2001). A study of effective grade-1 literacy instruction. *Scientific Studies of Reading*, 5, 35-58.

Taylor, B. M., Pearson, P. D., Peterson, D. S., & Rodriguez, M. C. (2002). *The CIERA school change project: Supporting schools as they implement home-grown reading reform*. Ann Arbor, Mich.:



University of Michigan, Center for the Improvement of Early Reading Achievement.

U.S. Department of Education, Office of the Deputy Secretary, Planning and Evaluation Service. (2001). *The longitudinal evaluation of school change and performance in Title I schools, volume 1: Executive Summary*. Washington, D.C.

Wharton-McDonald, R., Pressley, M., & Hampston, J. M. (1998). Outstanding literacy instruction in first grade: Teacher practices and student achievement. *Elementary School Journal*, 99, 101-128.

## Resources:

Hammond, W. D., and Raphael, T. E. (Eds.). (1999). *Early literacy for the new millennium*. Ann Arbor, Mich.: University of Michigan, Center for the Improvement of Early Reading Achievement.

Pressley, M., Allington, R., Wharton-McDonald, R., Block, C. C., & Morrow, L. M. (2001). *Learning to read: Lessons from exemplary first grades*. New York: Guilford.



# Higher-level Thinking

**E**ffective teachers of reading stress higher-level thinking. They engage children in challenging discussions and writing in response to what they have read.

Knapp, M. S., & Associates. (1995). *Teaching for meaning in high-poverty classrooms*. New York: Teachers College Press.

Puma, M. J., Karweit, N., Price, C., Ricciuti, Thompson, & Vaden-Kiernan, M. (1997). *Prospects: Final report on student outcomes*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Education, Planning and Evaluation Services.

Taylor, B. M., Pearson, P. D., Peterson, D. S., & Rodriguez, M. C. (2002). *The CIERA school change project:*

*Supporting schools as they implement home-grown reading reform*. Ann Arbor, Mich.: University of Michigan, Center for the Improvement of Early Reading Achievement.

Taylor, B. M., Peterson, D. P., Pearson, P. D., & Rodriguez, M. C. (in press). Looking inside classrooms:



Reflecting on the “how” as well as the “what” in effective reading instruction. *The Reading Teacher*.

### Resources:

Block, C. C. & Pressley, M., (Eds.). (2002). *Comprehension instruction: Research-based best practices*. New York: Guilford.

McMahon, S. I., Raphael, T. E., Goatley, V. J., & Pardo, L. S. (Eds.). (1997). *The book club connection: Literacy learning and classroom talk*. New York: Teachers College Press.





# Skills and Strategies

**E**ffective teachers of reading teach word recognition and comprehension strategies as well as skills. They teach children how to transfer word recognition and comprehension skills they have learned into strategies they can use independently when reading or writing.

National Reading Panel. (2000). Report of the National Reading Panel. Washington, D.C.: National Institute for Child Health and Human Development.



Taylor, B. M., Pearson, P. D., Clark, K., & Walpole, S. (2000). Effective schools and accomplished teachers: Lessons about primary-grade reading instruction in low-income schools.

*Elementary School Journal*, 101, 121-165.

Taylor, B. M., Pearson, P. D., Peterson, D. S., & Rodriguez, M. C. (2002). *The CIERA school change project: Supporting schools as they implement home-grown reading reform*. Ann Arbor, Mich.: University of Michigan, Center for the Improvement of Early Reading Achievement.



## Resources:

Block, C. C. & Pressley, M., (Eds.). (2002). *Comprehension instruction: Research-based best practices*. New York: Guilford.

Armbruster, B. B., Lehr, F., & Osborn, J. (2001). *Put reading first: The research building blocks for teaching children to read*. Washington, D.C: National Institute for Literacy.

# Coaching Focus

**E**ffective teachers of reading do not rely only on teacher-directed instruction. They provide a substantial amount of coaching in the form of support and feedback as their students are reading and writing. They refrain from doing too much talking, allowing their students ample time to engage firsthand in literacy activities.

Pressley, M., Wharton-McDonald, R., Allington, R., Block, C. C., Morrow, L., Tracey, D., Baker, K., Brooks, G., Cronin, J., Nelson, E., & Woo, D. (2001). A study of effective grade-1 literacy instruction. *Scientific Studies of Reading*, 5, 35-58.

Taylor, B. M., Pearson, P. D., Clark, K., & Walpole, S. (2000). Effective schools and accomplished teachers: Lessons about primary-grade reading instruction in low-income schools. *Elementary School Journal*, 101, 121-165.



Taylor, B. M., Pearson, P. D., Peterson, D. S., & Rodriguez, M. C. (2002). *The CIERA school change project: Supporting schools as they implement home-grown reading reform*. Ann Arbor, Mich.: University of Michigan, Center for the Improvement of Early Reading Achievement.

Taylor, B. M., Peterson, D. P., Pearson, P. D., & Rodriguez, M. C. (November, 2002). Looking inside classrooms: Reflecting on the “how” as well as the “what” in effective reading instruction. *The Reading Teacher*, 56, 270-279.

### Resources:

Pressley, M., Allington, R., Wharton-McDonald, R., Block, C. C., & Morrow, L. M. (2001). *Learning to read: Lessons from exemplary first grades*. New York: Guilford.

Taylor, B. M., & Pearson, P. D. (Eds.). (2002). *Teaching reading: Effective schools, accomplished teachers*. Mahwah, N.J.: Erlbaum.





# Fostering Self-regulation

**E**ffective teachers of reading foster self-regulation in their students. They encourage students to work independently and take responsibility for their own learning.

Paris, S. G., & Paris, A. H. (2001). Classroom applications of research on self-regulated learning. *Educational Psychologist*, 36, 89-102.

Pressley, M., Wharton-McDonald, R., Allington, R., Block, C. C., Morrow, L., Tracey, D., Baker, K., Brooks, G., Cronin, J., Nelson, E., & Woo, D. (2001). A study of effective grade-1 literacy instruction. *Scientific Studies of Reading*, 5, 35-58.



Taylor, B. M. (2002). Highly accomplished primary grade teachers in effective schools. In B. M. Taylor, & P. D. Pearson. (Eds.), *Teaching reading: Effective schools, accomplished teachers*. Mahwah, N.J.: Erlbaum (pp. 279-288).



## Resources:

Paris, S. G., & Winograd, P. (1999). The role of self-regulated learning in contextual teaching: Principles and practices for teacher preparation. *Contextual Teaching and Learning: Preparing Teachers to Enhance Student Success in the Workplace and Beyond*, Information Series No. 376. Washington, D.C.: Clearinghouse on Teaching and Teacher Education.

Pressley, M., Allington, R., Wharton-McDonald, R., Block, C. C., & Morrow, L. M. (2001). *Learning to read: Lessons from exemplary first grades*. New York: Guilford.

Taylor, B. M., & Pearson, P. D. (Eds.). (2002). *Teaching reading: Effective schools, accomplished teachers*. Mahwah, N.J.: Erlbaum.

# Motivating Instruction

**E**ffective teachers of reading provide motivating instruction and foster active pupil involvement. They give their students many opportunities to engage in meaningful reading and writing activities.

Barrera, R., & Jimenez, R. (2002). Bilingual teachers speak about their literacy instruction. In B. M. Taylor, & P. D. Pearson, (Eds.), *Teaching reading: Effective schools, accomplished teachers*. Mahwah, N.J.: Erlbaum (pp. 335-360).

Pressley, M., Wharton-McDonald, R., L. M., Bogner, K., & Roehrig, A. (2002). In B. M. Taylor, & P. D. Pearson (Eds.), *Teaching reading: Effective schools, accomplished teachers*. Mahwah, N.J.: Erlbaum (pp. 73-88).

Taylor, B. M., Pearson, P. D., Peterson, D. S., & Rodriguez, M. C. (2002). *The CIERA school change project: Supporting schools as they implement*



*home-grown reading reform*. Ann Arbor, Mich.: University of Michigan, Center for the Improvement of Early Reading Achievement.

## Resources:

Baker, L. Dreher, M. J., & Guthrie, J. T. (2000). *Engaging young readers: Promoting achievement and motivation*. New York: Guilford.

Pressley, M., Allington, R., Wharton-McDonald, R., Block, C. C., & Morrow, L. M. (2001). *Learning to read: Lessons from exemplary first grades*. New York: Guilford.



# High

## Expectations

**E**ffective teachers of reading have high expectations for their students' behavior and their reading growth. They believe their students can achieve at high levels in reading and writing. They also believe their students will work hard whether they are with the whole class, in a small group, with a partner, or working on their own.

Barrera, R., & Jimenez, R. (2002). Bilingual teachers speak about their literacy instruction. In B. M. Taylor, & P. D. Pearson (Eds.), *Teaching reading: Effective schools, accomplished teachers*. Mahwah, N.J.: Erlbaum (pp. 335-360).

Taylor, B. M. (2002). Highly accomplished primary grade teachers in effective schools. In B. M. Taylor, & P. D. Pearson (Eds.), *Teaching reading: Effective schools, accomplished teachers*. Mahwah, N.J.: Erlbaum (pp. 279-288).



Wharton-McDonald, R., Pressley, M., & Hampston, J. M. (1998). Outstanding literacy instruction in first grade: Teacher practices and student achievement. *Elementary School Journal*, 99, 101-128.

### Resources:

Taylor, B. M., & Pearson, P. D. (Eds.). (2002). *Teaching reading: Effective schools, accomplished teachers*. Mahwah, N.J.: Erlbaum.



# Classroom Managers

**E**ffective teachers of reading are excellent classroom managers. They work with their students to develop class rules and routines and are persistent in seeing these rules and routines honored in the classroom.

Pressley, M., Wharton-McDonald, R., Allington, R., Block, C. C., Morrow, L., Tracey, D., Baker, K., Brooks, G., Cronin, J., Nelson, E., & Woo, D. (2001). A study of effective grade-1 literacy instruction. *Scientific Studies of Reading*, 5, 35-58.

Taylor, B. M. (2002). Highly accomplished primary grade teachers in effective schools. In B. M. Taylor, & P. D. Pearson (Eds.), *Teaching reading: Effective schools, accomplished teachers*. Mahwah, N.J.: Erlbaum (pp. 279-288).

Wharton-McDonald, R., Pressley, M., & Hampston, J. M. (1998). Outstanding literacy instruction in first grade: Teacher practices and student achievement. *Elementary School Journal*, 99, 101-128.



## Resources:

Pressley, M., Allington, R., Wharton-McDonald, R., Block, C. C., & Morrow, L. M. (2001). *Learning to read: Lessons from exemplary first grades*. New York: Guilford.

Taylor, B. M., & Pearson, P. D. (Eds.). (2002). *Teaching reading: Effective schools, accomplished teachers*. Mahwah, N.J.: Erlbaum.



# Parent Relationships

Effective teachers of reading build strong relationships with their students' parents. They communicate regularly with parents, treat them with respect, and make them feel welcome in their classrooms.

Barrera, R., & Jimenez, R. (2002). Bilingual teachers speak about their literacy instruction. In B. M. Taylor, & P. D. Pearson, (Eds.), *Teaching reading: Effective schools, accomplished teachers*. Mahwah, N.J.: Erlbaum (pp. 335-360).

Goldenberg, C. (2001). Making schools work for low-income families in the 21st century. In S. B. Neuman & Dickenson, D. K. (Eds.), *Handbook of literacy Research* (pp. 211-231).

Taylor, B. M., Pearson, P. D., Clark, K., & Walpole, S. (2000). Effective schools and accomplished teachers: Lessons about primary-grade reading instruction in low-income schools. *Elementary School Journal*, 101, 121-165.



U.S. Department of Education, Office of the Deputy Secretary, Planning and Evaluation Service. (2001). *The longitudinal evaluation of school change and performance in Title I schools, volume 1: Executive Summary*. Washington, D.C.

### Resources:

Morrow, L. M. (1995). *Family literacy: connections in schools and communities*. Newark, Del.: International Reading Association.

Hammond, W. D., & Raphael, T. E. (Eds.). (1999). *Early literacy for the new millennium*. Ann Arbor, Mich.: University of Michigan, Center for the Improvement of Early Reading Achievement.





# Additional Resources

Hoffman, J.V. (1991). Teacher and school effects in learning to read. In R. Barr, M. L. Kamil, P. B. Mosenthal, & P. D. Pearson (Eds.), *Handbook of reading research, Vol. II*, (pp. 911–950). New York: Longman.



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