

International ELINET Symposium 2018
“Literacy in the 21st Century: Participation – Inclusion – Equity”.

July 23-24, 2018, Cologne, Germany



Good Practice Session I: Creating a more literate environment

Chairs: Eufimia Tafa, University of Crete, Greece & Renate Valtin, Humboldt University Berlin, Germany

Tuesday, July 24, at 10.00–11.00

Location: Seminar Building / Room S 23

LITERACY CHANGES LIVES.

The ReadingExpress. How volunteers support parents at home to enrich their home literacy environment.

Presenter:

Naomi van Ringelenstein,
Stichting VoorleesExpress (ReadingExpress)

ReadingExpress aims to promote children’s language development by enriching the home literacy environment and enabling parents to support their child’s language growth in their own way. Research shows that children who are read to at an early age have an advantage over children without similar reading experiences. It turns out that it has a positive effect on their language development. For a period of twenty weeks, a volunteer reader pays weekly visits to a family.

During these visits, the volunteer reader initially demonstrates shared reading to parents by engaging them in shared reading activities with their child. The parents are encouraged to gradually take over the role of the volunteer, by engaging in shared reading and other literacy-related activities with their child.

ReadingExpress initially started as a small scale initiative in the city of Utrecht. Our approach has developed from being an intuitive process to becoming a professional method. We have grown from assisting 10 families in 2006, to reaching over 5000 families a year in 2018. ReadingExpress collaborates with different (local) partners in the field of reading promotion, parental involvement, voluntary work and social participation.

The ReadingExpress can be found in the Effective Literacy Practices Database of Unesco. Recent ongoing research shows that children who participate in the ReadingExpress show a significant increase in their performance when it comes to narrative comprehension.

References:

“Effectiviteit van de VoorleesExpress”, Broens & van Steensel in voorbereiding, Erasmus Universiteit, 2018, in opdracht van Kunst van Lezen.

Desforges, C. Abouchar, A. "The Impact of Parental Involvement, Parental Support and Family Education on Pupil Achievements and Adjustment: A Literature Review", London, Department of Education and Skills, 2003.**Bio Note:**

Naomi van Ringelenstein, MSc, is process and account manager at ReadingExpress. She studied Interdisciplinary social sciences in Amsterdam and has a master degree in Multiculturalism. Her focus at ReadingExpress lies on contact with partners and sponsors, financial management and research.