

Reading for pleasure

Research impact case study

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Contents

Contents	2
Reading for pleasure	3
Different forms of impact.....	5
Policy reviews	8
Other major bodies and initiatives.....	8
Local authorities.....	9
Literacy organisations and charities.....	11
Libraries and library associations	13
Schools.....	15
United States	19
Education organisations/websites.....	19
Parents' associations.....	20
Publishers.....	20
Other commercial organisations	21
Blogs and special interest websites	22
Books aimed at teachers, parents or librarians.....	24
Media coverage	25
Overseas coverage.....	26
Social media	27



Reading for pleasure

A 2013 research paper by two academics at the Centre for Longitudinal Studies on the beneficial effects of reading for pleasure in childhood has attracted a remarkable amount of interest from schools, libraries and literacy organisations around the world.

This case study shows how the findings have been used to help protect library services, to persuade children of all ages to spend more time reading, and to encourage parents to support schools' home reading initiatives.

The research has also influenced the thinking of policy-makers, educationists and local authority administrators in not only the UK but a number of other English-speaking countries.

What the research discovered

The CLS study found that children who read for pleasure made more progress in maths, as well as vocabulary and spelling, between the ages of 10 and 16 than those who rarely read.

The research, which is believed to be the first to examine the effect of reading for pleasure on cognitive development over time, was conducted by Professor Alice Sullivan and Matt Brown. They analysed the reading behaviour of approximately 6,000 members of the 1970 British Cohort Study, which is managed by CLS and funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. Their research looked at how often cohort members read for pleasure during childhood and their test results at ages 5, 10 and 16.

Perhaps surprisingly, reading for pleasure was found to be more important for children's cognitive development between ages 10 and 16 than their parents' level of education. The combined effect on children's progress of reading books often, going to the library regularly and reading newspapers at 16 was four times greater than the advantage children gained from having a parent with a degree.

Where the study can be found

Sullivan, A. and Brown, M. (2013) Social inequalities in cognitive scores at age 16: The role of reading. CLS Working Paper 2013/10. London: Centre for Longitudinal Studies
<http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk/shared/get-file.ashx?itemtype=document&id=1719>

What the researchers have done to promote their findings

High-profile radio interviews: Professor Sullivan was interviewed by BBC Radio 4's flagship morning radio programme, *Today*, on September 11, 2013.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-24045371> She also gave interviews to BBC London TV, Sky News (radio), BBC regional stations and Al Jazeera, the Qatar-based broadcaster.

Guardian article: Professor Sullivan wrote a *Guardian* blog about her research, which has since been shared via social media more than 3,000 times.
<http://www.theguardian.com/books/booksblog/2013/sep/16/reading-improves-childrens-brains>

Conference presentation: She also addressed the Reader Organisation's annual conference on May 15, 2014, at the British Library in London.
<http://www.thereader.org.uk/events/conference.aspx>

About BCS70

The 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70) follows the lives of more than 17,000 people born in England, Scotland and Wales in a single week of 1970. Over the course of cohort members' lives, BCS70 has collected information on health, physical, educational and social development, and economic circumstances, among other factors. Since the birth survey in 1970, there have been eight surveys at ages 5, 10, 16, 26, 30, 34, 38 and 42.

Press release: The researchers, working in collaboration with CLS communications staff, also issued a press release on their findings, which triggered a huge amount of media attention. See “Reading for pleasure puts children ahead in the classroom, study finds”, September 11, 2013 <http://www.ioe.ac.uk/newsEvents/89938.html> (the principal press reports are listed below, under ‘Media coverage’).

Different forms of impact

Social science research can have various types of impact beyond the world of academia. It can influence changes in policy or practice. Sometimes it can even affect the behaviour of the public. More often, however, such research has a *conceptual* impact, changing people’s knowledge, understanding and attitudes towards certain issues.

Sullivan and Brown’s findings have undoubtedly had the latter form of impact, as this case study will demonstrate. But they also appear to have influenced the thinking of politicians and policy-makers – in the UK and other English-speaking countries.

Policy uses of the CLS study

The research was highlighted in the British Labour party’s education policy review¹, published in April 2014. In his foreword to the report, David Blunkett MP, the former Secretary of State for Education and Employment, said: “... stirring texts and imaginative programmes of learning, which light a candle and engender a love of learning for life, must also be central to our goals. Indeed, an Institute of Education study in autumn 2013 found that children who read for pleasure perform significantly better at school in maths as well as English.”

There is also evidence that Sullivan and Brown’s research has helped to shape policies on reading and libraries in England, Scotland, and internationally – at either a national, regional or individual library/school level. Here are some other examples of how the findings have been used:

¹ Blunkett, David; *Review of education structures, functions and the raising of standards for all – Putting students and parents first*, April 2014 (published as part of the Labour party’s policy review process ahead of the 2015 General Election). http://www.yourbritain.org.uk/uploads/editor/files/130514_Report_FINAL.pdf

Stop Press:

On the day this case study was published, the Department for Education released an important policy document which also referred to Sullivan and Brown’s research -- *Reading: the next steps. Supporting higher standards in schools* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reading-supporting-higher-standards-in-schools>

This document, which carries a foreword by Nick Gibb, Minister of State for School Reform, sets out how the government will support schools to improve reading standards, “and promote reading for pleasure”.

It cites Sullivan and Brown’s 2013 study and states (see page 18): “Reading for pleasure has also been found to be linked to greater progress in spelling and mathematics skills. Recent longitudinal research found the impact of reading for pleasure on progress in vocabulary, arithmetic and spelling between the ages of 10 and 16 to be four times greater than the impact of having a parent with a degree.”



Australia: The research has been cited many times by schools and state government officials in South Australia in order to support the Premier's Reading Challenge, a long-running literacy initiative. When the organisers of the Challenge announced that the scheme would focus on secondary schools in 2014 they referred to Sullivan and Brown's finding that reading for pleasure between ages 10 and 16 boosted all-round attainment.

Canada: The National Reading Campaign draws attention to the study in its web-based 'toolkit' for parents who want to develop their children's interest in reading. In Vancouver, the vice-chair of the city's library board has used the CLS research to demonstrate why public libraries merit public investment.

England: Sullivan and Brown's findings have fed into Arts Council England's review of the economic contribution of libraries and the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills inquiry into adult literacy and numeracy. A number of local authorities in England have also given serious consideration to the research and its messages for library and school reading policies.

New Zealand: The National Library of New Zealand has flagged up Sullivan and Brown's findings in its web-based guidance for teachers on how to create a reading culture in the nation's schools

Scotland: In November 2013, Lin Anderson, chair of the UK's 9,000-member Society of Authors cited the CLS findings in the first paragraph of her open letter to Edinburgh City Council protesting about plans to cut school librarian posts. The council later withdrew their plans in view of such public protests. The research also featured in a major Scottish review of the impact of school libraries on learning led by Professor Dorothy Williams of Aberdeen Business School's IMAGES Research Institute.

United States: In Hillsboro, Oregon, the city’s library managers have chosen ‘student success’ as one of their key goals for 2014-17, explaining that Sullivan and Brown’s work shows that reading for pleasure can boost children’s all-round performance. (*Further information on all of these policy-related uses of the research is provided below*).

Conceptual impact and influence on practice

Proving conceptual impact is seldom easy but one of the ways it can be shown is by measuring public reaction to a particular piece of research. “How much discussion have the findings generated?” “What form has this discussion taken?”



The scale of the reaction to Sullivan and Brown’s findings is perhaps best demonstrated by one statistic – the number of times the press release on their findings has been accessed by visitors to the UCL Institute of Education and CLS websites. By early February

2015 that total had risen to more than 75,000². No other press release issued by CLS or the IOE in recent years has attracted that amount of attention.

The initial publicity also led to CLS receiving many phone calls and emails from schools, libraries, academics, students, literacy charities and policy-makers seeking further information about the research. Most of these follow-up requests came from UK organisations. But as this document will demonstrate, countries throughout the English-speaking world have also expressed exceptional interest in the Sullivan and Brown study.

Many libraries and literacy charities have used the research findings to advocate the benefits of reading for pleasure (See ‘Libraries and library associations’ list, below). Headteachers in the UK, Australia, US and Canada have also highlighted the findings in newsletters or presentations for parents in order to encourage home reading (see ‘Schools’ list).

Many schools have informed their pupils about the findings, too -- often in a headteacher’s address to the school assembly. One school, Robert Smyth Academy in Market Harborough, Leicestershire, went even further in order to ensure that the study’s findings got across to its pupils. It asked its GCSE English candidates to read the BBC News report on the CLS research as part of a homework exercise.

Understandably, publishers, including the world’s biggest publisher of children’s books, Scholastic, have also used the findings to promote the value of their wares.

² Between September 11, 2013 and January 23, 2014, the press release had 49,757 unique page views on the CLS website and 25,653 unique page views on the IOE website, making a total of 75,410. The average time spent on the page was 4min 30sec, suggesting that most people read the whole release.

Policy reviews

Labour party

“Review of education structures, functions and the raising of standards for all: putting students and parents first”, Labour Policy Review (2014). Sullivan and Brown’s findings are highlighted by David Blunkett, the former Education Secretary, in his foreword to this report http://www.yourbritain.org.uk/uploads/editor/files/130514_Report_FINAL.pdf

Arts Council England

“Evidence review of the economic contribution of libraries” (2014). This literature review summarises the CLS study’s key findings (see page 24). http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/media/uploads/pdf/Evidence_review_economic_contribution_libraries.pdf

Reading Agency

The agency cited the CLS study in its evidence to the 2014 Department of Business, Innovation and Skills inquiry into adult literacy and numeracy. <http://readingagency.org.uk/adults/The%20Reading%20Agency%20for%20BIS%20Inquiry%20on%20adult%20literacy%20and%20numeracy%206%20Feb%202014.pdf>

Scotland

“Impact of school libraries on learning” (2013) Critical review of published evidence to inform the Scottish education community. This review, led by Professor Dorothy Williams, of Aberdeen Business School’s IMAGES Research Institute, makes several mentions of the CLS research. <https://openair.rgu.ac.uk/bitstream/10059/1093/1/Williams%20Impact%20of%20school%20libraries%20on%20learning%20SLIC.pdf>

Other major bodies and initiatives

UK

National Child and Maternal Health Intelligence Network (Public Health England)

This site provides a link to the Sullivan and Brown study. <http://www.chimat.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=194820>

Teaching English (website run by the British Council and BBC World Service)

This website article quotes Professor Sullivan and concludes: “In our roles, wherever we are, we ought to raise awareness on this issue, as teachers, trainers, parents, members of a community ... and not only because it seems children who read for pleasure are likely to do significantly better at school than their peers, but as Jane Austen would say “I declare after all there is no enjoyment like reading!” <http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/blogs/admin/underlining-importance-encouraging-children-read-%E2%80%93-even-digital-age>

New Zealand

Ministry of Education

“National Newsletter – English” - This newsletter is aimed at middle leaders in secondary schools throughout New Zealand. It is produced on the Ministry’s behalf by the University of Auckland and Te Tapuae o Rehua consortium. It summarises the CLS research and links to the press release.

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/education/otago079479.pdf>

Pakistan

Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education

News blog for students based on BBC coverage of the CLS findings <http://www.fbise.org/2013/09/reading-children-maths.html>



South Australia

The CLS research is referred to in this newsletter for schools from Carmel Jones, manager of South Australia’s Premier’s Reading Challenge, which involved 125,000 children in the state in 2014.

http://www.premiersreadingchallenge.sa.edu.au/prc/files/pages/2014/Updates/Update11_2014.pdf

The Premier’s Reading Challenge website states that the challenge will focus on secondary schools in 2014 and then lists the CLS findings relating to 10 to 16-year-olds.

<http://www.premiersreadingchallenge.sa.edu.au/prc/pages/staff/PRCNews/?reFlag=1>

Local authorities

These are some of the local authorities in England that have made use of Sullivan and Brown’s research.

Bristol City Council

This council website article describes steps that carers can take to promote the education of children they look after. It advocates listening to children read and reading to them and cites the CLS findings. <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/page/children-and-young-people/carers-roles-supporting-education>

Derbyshire

Members of Culture Derbyshire were provided with a two-page briefing note on the research in September 2013. The briefing was based on the CLS press release. (Culture Derbyshire is a multi-agency partnership which exercises strategic leadership of the county's archives, arts, libraries and museums.)

http://www.derbyshirepartnership.gov.uk/images/2013%2009%2025%20Culture%20Derbyshire%20Papers_tcm39-239046.pdf

Devon

This document on the county's Library Strategy for 2014/15 to 2016/17 acknowledges that supporting learning for individuals of all ages is a core function of libraries. It points out that the CLS research has shown a significant positive correlation between academic achievement and reading for pleasure. It then lists the ways in which Devon's libraries encourage children to read. <https://new.devon.gov.uk/libraryreview/.../Devon-Libraries-needs-assessment.pdf>

East Sussex

"Good practice on project development and management". This county council report reproduces the first three paragraphs of the press release and provides a link to the full release. The author of the council report suggests that the CLS findings provide the kind of evidence that can be used in applying for funding for literacy projects.

<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/8104520A-4ADD-41C4-AB8A-ED8DE847C516/0/EUProjectdevelopmentandmanagementhandbookfinal.pdf>

Hampshire

Hampshire's School Library Service Annual Report 2012-13 draws attention to the CLS findings. <http://documents.hants.gov.uk/ccbs/sls/SLSAnnualreport2012-13.pdf>

Liverpool

City of Readers is a campaign to transform Liverpool into the UK's "foremost reading city". It is supported by Liverpool Learning Partnership, Liverpool City Council and the Reader Organisation. The following article on the City of Readers website summarises the CLS findings and displays graphs derived from the Sullivan and Brown research.

<http://cityofreaders.org/about/>

The extent of the public interest – and engagement – in the research findings is, however, perhaps best illustrated by the lists of schools, libraries, literacy associations and commercial organisations that have reported or discussed the research on their websites or in public statements. See below:

Literacy organisations and charities

The following organisations have publicised the CLS study's findings on their websites. Many have provided links to the CLS press release issued in September 2013. (This is by no means an exhaustive list.)

UK

Book Trust (organisation that promotes books and reading)

"Evidence summary on effects of reading for pleasure - The importance of reading with children frequently, ideally every day"

[http://www.natiperleggere.it/fileadmin/user_upload/documenti/Evidenze_e_varie_pediatri/Booktrust_Reading_every_day_evidence_summary_FINAL - 1_2014.pdf](http://www.natiperleggere.it/fileadmin/user_upload/documenti/Evidenze_e_varie_pediatri/Booktrust_Reading_every_day_evidence_summary_FINAL_-_1_2014.pdf)

"Beyond Booked Up – final report" (2014)

Beyond Booked Up is a Booktrust-funded programme that provides reading materials for Years 7 and 8 pupils in disadvantaged areas of England. This report highlights the finding "that reading for pleasure has been associated with progress in mathematics as well as vocabulary and spelling". <http://booktrustadmin.artlogic.net/usr/resources/1110/bbu-final-report.pdf>

Carnegie UK Trust (charitable trust)

Summary of findings and link to press release

<http://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/CMSPages/GetFile.aspx?guid=cdb437e9-3fc0-40e5-be63-b32889977ea5>

Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (charity)

Presentation to Reading for Pleasure conference that highlights Sullivan and Brown's key findings [Reading for pleasure conference ppt.pdf](#)

ICAN (organisation that advises parents and practitioners about speech, language and communication)

Report by an I CAN communication adviser which summarises the findings

<http://blog.ican.org.uk/2013/09/reading-for-pleasure-improves-childrens-educational-outcomes/>

National Literacy Trust (charity)

Digest of Sullivan and Brown's findings

http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/news/5560_study_provides_evidence_that_reading_for_pleasure_boosts_childrens_academic_performance

National Literacy Trust and RM Education

"The impact of ebooks on the reading motivation and reading skills of children and young people", September 2014. Rapid literature review that flags up the findings

http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/assets/0002/3898/Ebooks_lit_review_2014.pdf

Reader Organisation (charity)

Blog providing digest of Sullivan and Brown's findings

<http://thereaderonline.co.uk/2013/09/11/reading-for-pleasure-puts-children-ahead-in-the-classroom/>

Reading Agency (charity)

Digest of findings

<http://readingagency.org.uk/news/reading-facts003/>

Reading Matters (Bradford-based charity and social enterprise)

Short statement by Rachel Kelly, Chief Executive, Reading Matters, which draws attention to Sullivan and Brown's research

<http://readingmatters.org.uk/christmas-is-approaching-goodwill-to-all/>

Save the Children (global children's charity)

"How reading can help children escape poverty". (Three mentions of the research in this report, published as part of the Read On. Get On. campaign)

http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/images/Read_On_Get_On.pdf

Society of Authors

This letter to Edinburgh City Council from society's chair, Lin Anderson, protesting about plans to cut school librarian posts in high schools includes a prominent reference to Sullivan and Brown's research.

<http://www.societyofauthors.org/soa-news/edinburgh-school-library-proposals-call-action>

Teen Reading Action Campaign (London-based charity)

The findings are cited in this organisation's "Summer Reads" press release

<http://www.tracbook.com/assets/components/files/documents/PressRelease1.pdf>

UK Literacy Association (charity)

News report on the research findings

<http://www.ukla.org/news/P40/>

Canada

National Reading Campaign

Parents' Toolkit (offers digest of CLS findings)

http://www.nationalreadingcampaign.ca/research-resources/for-parents/?paged_list=3

Also (from the same organisation's website) "Children and reading – The facts"

<http://www.nationalreadingcampaign.ca/research/children-and-reading-the-facts/>

United States

Raising a Reader (early literacy programme based in San Francisco)

http://www.bloglovin.com/viewer?post=1609330571&group=0&frame_type=b&blog=8155115&frame=1&click=0&user=0

Vermont Psychology (e-journal)

Article about books charity refers to Sullivan and Brown research

<http://vermontpsychology.org/2014/02/05/anne-baron-giving-life-through-books-with-duncan-mcdougall/>



Hong Kong

Bring me a Book (non-profit-making organisation)

<http://www.bringmeabook.org.hk/2013/10/raising-life-long-readersand-learners/>

Libraries and library associations

UK

Bridgend Libraries

The September 2013 CLS press release was shared via social media by countless individuals and a large number of organisations. See, for example, this Facebook posting by Bridgend Libraries <https://www.facebook.com/bridgendlibraries/posts/693625260684884>

Rutland Library Service

This county library service has produced a leaflet of tips for parents that draws attention to the Sullivan and Brown study.

Sandwell Schools Library Services

This website item summarises the CLS findings and points out that Sandwell Council has commissioned its schools library service to deliver the Reading is Fun! Programme.

<http://www.sandwellips.org.uk/services/schools-library-service/>

The Library Campaign (national charity supporting friends and users of libraries)

News item on key findings

<http://www.librarycampaign.com/libraries-news-round-up-11th-september-2013/>

Welsh libraries blog

Blogsite maintained by the Libraries Development Programme Manager for CyMAL: Museums Archives and Libraries Wales, a policy division of the Welsh Government. This blog summarises the findings and links to the press release

<https://libalyson.wordpress.com/2013/09/16/just-one-more-story-please/>

United States

Cecil County Public Library, Maryland

Annual Report 2013. Quotes the CLS research and explains that the library applies research findings as part of its programme to help school performance.

http://www.cecil.ebranch.info/files/270_CCPL%20Annual%20Report%20FY13%20Final.pdf

Great River Regional Library, Minnesota

News report on findings

<http://www.griver.org/library-news/uk-study-links-pleasure-reading-school-success>

Hillsboro, Oregon

This city's Library Strategic Plan for 2014-2017 uses the CLS findings as part of the rationale for one of its key goals – student success. "Since reading for pleasure puts students ahead in the classroom, 95% of the time elementary school-aged students will find books for reading pleasure on each visit to the library," it says before referring readers to the CLS research.

<http://www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/index.aspx?page=1276>

Kansas Association of School Librarians

News report by teacher who says she is using the CLS findings to support her school library. "I'm always looking for ways to show the library's relevance and importance, and I think this study does a lot to reinforce that idea," the writer says.

<http://kasl.typepad.com/kasl/2013/10/reading-for-pleasure-results-in-scholastic-excellence.html>

Library City (group that is trying to ensure America's libraries survive in the digital era)

This organisation says it has often cited the Sullivan and Brown research. See, for example,

<http://librarycity.org/?p=11603> or this article by one of Library City's founders, David Rothman, in The Chronicle of Philanthropy <http://philanthropy.com/article/The-Rich-Could-Tackle-Many/146911/>. Rothman says that the case for a national digital library in the US is strengthened by Professor Sullivan's argument that "new technologies, such as e-readers, can offer easy access to books and newspapers and it is important that government policies support and encourage children's reading, particularly in their teenage years".

School Library Journal

News article on Sullivan and Brown findings

<http://www.slj.com/2013/09/research/uk-study-links-kids-pleasure-reading-to-strong-school-performance/#>

New Zealand

National Library of New Zealand

The study is quoted in this web-based guidance for teachers on how to create a reading culture in schools.

<http://schools.natlib.govt.nz/creating-readers/creating-reading-culture/school-wide-reading-culture>

International

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

Blog with links to CLS press release and research paper

<http://blogs.ifla.org/literacy-reading/2014/01/29/british-study-on-pleasure-reading-impact/>

Schools

UK

Blessed William Howard Catholic High School, Stafford

Website news item reporting that the school is campaigning to buck the trend of secondary school age children reading less and less for pleasure. It justifies its strategy by pointing to the CLS findings.

<http://www.blessedwilliamhoward.org.uk/News/School-seeks-to-boost-students-reading-for-pleasur/>

Churchill Academy and Sixth Form, Churchill, North Somerset

The school's guide to the Accelerated Reader programme – produced for parents and carers - opens with a quote from Professor Sullivan on the quantifiable benefits of reading for pleasure.

http://www.churchill-academy.org/_files/Faculty/English/B58E68899E41504E68F3D8FABA22DE31.pdf

Epsom College

School magazine article by a college librarian which summarises the study's key findings and adds: "For these reasons and more, the Epsom College Library staff see their role in encouraging reading for pleasure across the College community as a top priority."

<http://www.epsomcollege.org.uk/userfiles/documents/academicadvice/Library.pdf>

Glasgow Academy

This advice for parents of prep school children quotes the BBC report on Sullivan and Brown's findings.

http://www.theglasgowacademy.org.uk/filemanager/userfiles/All_Files/Parents/Parents%20Information%20Booklet/information_for_parents_14-15.pdf

Harbinger Primary School, Tower Hamlets

School Development Plan 2013-14 - In their opening statement, the school's head and

'One Leicestershire school even asked its pupils to read the BBC report on the study as a homework exercise'

chair of governors explain that the school will focus its attention on reading, before adding that the CLS study found that children who read for pleasure are likely to do well in all subject areas.

<http://www.harbingerschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/School-Development-Plan-2013-14.pdf>

Jewish Community Secondary School, Barnet

This report on the research – in a newsletter for parents - also emphasises that reading has been shown to benefit children’s all-round performance.

<http://www.jcoss.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/July-2014-newsletter.pdf>

Lakeside Community Primary School, Derby

The school’s website summarises the research, provides a link to the release, and adds: “Interesting research so let’s get learners reading for fun! Comics, novels, poems, magazines, recipes anything for enjoyment!”

<http://www.lakeside.derby.sch.uk/read-a-good-book/>

Lutterworth High School

The school’s newsletter reproduced the full CLS press release

<http://www.lutterworthhigh.leics.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/NewsFlash/Newsflash-October-2013.pdf>

The Maelor School, Wrexham

This report refers to the research before urging parents to “Encourage your child to read for pleasure as much and as often as possible.”

<http://www.maelorschool.org.uk/school-information/literacy-and-numeracy.php>

Ormiston Horizon Academy, Stoke-on-Trent

The school’s statement about literacy development highlights the study’s key findings. It asks parents to encourage their child to read at home – and to listen to them reading.

<http://www.ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk/oha-literacy/>

Penglais School, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion

This governors’ 2013-14 report to parents says that reading for pleasure must remain a priority and sets out Sullivan and Brown’s key findings.

http://penglainschool.org.uk/en/Info/governors/Governors_Report_to_Parents_2013-2014.pdf

Robert Smyth Academy, Market Loughborough, Leicestershire

All GCSE students at this academy are given homework booklets that include three tasks to be completed during one week. In autumn 2013 one of the tasks was to read the BBC News article on Sullivan and Brown’s findings and answer questions on it eg “Explain why



reading for pleasure is good for students' all-round learning."

<http://www.rswebsites.co.uk/english/wp-content/uploads/RSA-English-Homework-2013-Autumn-Number-2-Higher.pdf>

St Peter's secondary school, York

This headmaster's assembly talk is devoted to the study's findings and implications

http://www.stpetersyork.org.uk/st_peters/news_calendar/news/401_head_masters_assembly

St Swithun's Independent Day School, Winchester

Another message to parents which

summarises the research findings and adds:

"Sharing books with your children, reading aloud to them and showing them how much you enjoy books will benefit your children and give them and you great pleasure."

<http://www.stswithuns.com/The-traditional-sharing-of-a-bedtime-story-is-dying-out>

Stokesley School, North Yorkshire (secondary)

This December 2013 newsletter informs

parents that pupils have been told to bring books and magazines from home each day for a week. It explains why the school has taken this decision and directs them to a summary of the CLS findings.

<https://vle.stokesley.n-yorks.sch.uk/user/59/209725.pdf>

The Grange School and Sports College, South Gloucestershire

Sullivan and Brown's findings were highlighted in a presentation for parents attending a Key Stage 4 (age 14 to 16) Information Evening

<http://blogs.thegrangeschool.net/news/files/2014/10/Year-11-Securing-Success-Evening-Presentation.pdf>

The Perse School, Cambridge

The CLS findings were cited in this school assembly, which promoted World Book Day.

<https://theperseschool.wordpress.com/2014/03/05/world-book-day-2014-why-you-should-read-novels/>

Trinity Catholic High School, Woodford Green, Essex

This literacy leaflet aimed at parents of Year 7 pupils features a quote from Professor Sullivan.

<http://fc.tchs.uk.net/files/G4P/Literacy%20Leaflet%202014-15.pdf>

Walthamstow School for Girls

The headteacher uses the school newsletter to highlight the CLS findings.

www.wsfg.waltham.sch.uk/.../440-greensheet-16th-january-

Wilmington Grammar School for Girls

The 'reading for pleasure' section of the school's website directs parents to a summary of the findings and the research paper

<http://www.gsgw.org.uk/page/?pid=227>



Australia

Newcastle Grammar School, New South Wales

This newsletter for parents reproduces the Sydney Morning Herald report on the CLS findings.

<http://www.ngs.nsw.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/1334.pdf>

Academy of Mary Immaculate, Victoria

This newsletter highlights the same press report on the research, which also appeared in The Age, Melbourne's daily newspaper (both newspapers are owned by Fairfax Media). "As we approach the long summer vacation it may be pertinent to remember these findings and encourage our students to read while they have plenty of spare time," the school tells parents.

<http://www.academy.vic.edu.au/uploads/rsfil/00844.pdf>

Holy Rosary primary school, White Hills, Victoria

Millgate primary school, East Doncaster, Victoria

Rowville Secondary College, Victoria

The websites of these three schools also draw attention to the article in The Age.

http://jheraldnew.ebse.co.kr/view.php?nsm=0&bt=ebsjh001&pg=3&ud=2013110109254609795_31

http://www.milgateps.vic.edu.au/app/webroot/uploaded_files/media/wham_newsletter_18_october_2013.pdf

http://www.rowvillesc.vic.edu.au/images/uploads/news/Rowville_Times_-_Edition_16,_November_2013.pdf

Clapham Primary School, Clapham, South Australia

This school's newsletter points out that the CLS findings underscore the importance of South Australia's long-running literacy initiative, the Premier's Reading Challenge.

http://www.claphamps.sa.edu.au/pdfs/t1_w4.pdf

Immanuel College, Adelaide, South Australia

Web article about the research by an English teacher

<http://www.immanuel.sa.edu.au/newsletters/2014/Edition-4/Academic-Article-11/>

John Pirie Secondary School, South Australia

Newsletter report on the findings

http://www.johnpirihs.sa.edu.au/files/03_27_February_14.pdf

Naracoorte High School, South Australia

Newsletter digest of findings

http://www.narahs.sa.edu.au/docs/newsletters/Newsletter_11%20small%202014.pdf

Springfield Primary, Perth, West Australia

This school newsletter includes a statement from the principal which refers to the CLS findings and adds: "The moral is that if you want students to do well generally, encourage them to read for pleasure." The newsletter also published the CLS release.

<http://www.springfieldps.wa.edu.au/Portals/0/newsletters/2013%20T4/W1%20T4%20News.pdf>

St Aloysius College newsletter, Adelaide, South Australia

Newsletter article that highlights the findings and points to the services offered by the school library

http://www.sac.sa.edu.au/Newsletter/newsletter_2_feb7_2014_online.pdf

Canada

St Luke School, Calgary, Alberta

Newsletter report promoting Canadian Library Month that refers to Sullivan and Brown's research

<http://schools.cssd.ab.ca/stluke/files/2014/10/Newsletter-2014-October.pdf>

Vancouver Home Learners Program

Blog drawn from the Daily Telegraph report on the CLS findings

<http://shanei.edublogs.org/2013/09/16/parents-who-encourage-reading-for-pleasure-see-education-rewards/>

United States

Hillside School Library, Mount Laurel, New Jersey

This blog links to the press release

<http://hillsideelemlibrary.blogspot.co.uk/>

Komachin middle school, Lacey, Washington

Website news item that summarises the findings

<http://www.nthurston.k12.wa.us/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&ModuleInstanceId=4617&ViewID=7b97f7ed-8e5e-4120-848f-a8b4987d588f&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=28170&PageID=3548>

Education organisations/websites

UK

NIACE

Blog by Carol Taylor, Development and Research Director, National Institute of Adult Continuing Education

http://www.niace.org.uk/blog/?page_id3&paged=27

Australia

Australian Literacy Educators Association

Findings reported in briefing document on phonics

<http://www.alea.edu.au/documents/item/943>

United States

Intercollegiate Studies Institute, Delaware

Report in Institute's web journal, Intercollegiate Review

<http://www.intercollegiatereview.com/index.php/2013/09/23/why-read-for-fun/>

Parents' associations

US

National Parent Teacher Association (the largest volunteer child advocacy organisation in America)

One Voice – the association's official blogsite. Blog interview with Kyle Zimmer, CEO of First Book, a national social enterprise organisation that provides books for disadvantaged children. Kyle Zimmer refers to the CLS findings in her opening statement.

<http://onevoice.pta.org/?p=4047>

UK

Independent school parent

News report on findings

<http://www.independentschoolparent.com/education-news/reading-for-pleasure-boosts-performance-at-school>

Publishers

Oxford University Press

OUP highlighted the findings in this web news item

https://global.oup.com/education/content/primary/news/primary_news_reading_pleasure_adds_up?region=international



Pearson

Pearson, which describes itself as the world's leading learning company, has also cited the research in its public statements. For example, this press release on a new reading initiative that Pearson is supporting refers to the CLS findings.

<https://www.pearson.com/news/announcements/2015/january/teachers-believe-that-children-today-read-less-than-their-genera.html>

Publishers Association

Newsletter item for members that links to the press release

http://www.publishers.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2594:pas-pa-13th-august&catid=596:pas-pa-2013&Itemid=1727

Scholastic

Scholastic Corporation, the world's largest publisher and distributor of children's books, has cited the Sullivan and Brown research in its publications and press releases. For example, "An educator's guide to the joy and power of reading" refers to the CLS study in its opening paragraph.

<http://www.scholastic.com/worldofpossible/assets/educators-guide.pdf>

The research is also mentioned in this Scholastic press release on the "Open a World of Possible" reading initiative.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/usher-joins-scholastic-to-launch-open-a-world-of-possible-initiative-and-celebrate-the-power--joy-of-reading-274317981.html>

Other commercial organisations

Bright young things (tutoring organisation)

Article aimed at parents that refers to the CLS study's findings

<http://brightyoungthings.co.uk/blog/2014/05/28/why-is-reading-important-to-children/>

Everybody learns (learning support business based in North Yorkshire)

This article about Sullivan and Brown's research links to the BBC report on their findings

<http://everybodylearns.co.uk/maths-advantage-pupils-read-pleasure/>

Growing Readers

Newsletter reference to the study

<https://docs.com/1675U>

Jan Ro Blog (blog of a Merthyr Tydfil company that delivers professional training courses)

This article summarises the CLS findings

<https://janroltd.wordpress.com/2014/03/>

Kumon

Website article that mentions the findings

<http://www.kumon.co.uk/blog/how-wider-reading-can-support-academic-ability/>

Reading wise

Web article that refers to the findings

<http://readingwise.com/blog/strategy-no-7-encourage-reading-for-pleasure#modal>

W H Smith Young Readers Programme 2013-2016

End of Year One report: schools (NB: this programme is run by the National Literacy Trust)

Sullivan and Brown's findings are mentioned in the opening paragraph of this report.

[http://www.redcar-](http://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/lakes.nsf/8587ed9590e5c25e80257d88004f11be/$file/whs%20nlt%20ypr)

[cleveland.gov.uk/lakes.nsf/8587ed9590e5c25e80257d88004f11be/\\$file/whs%20nlt%20ypr%20report%202013-14%20for%20schools.pdf](http://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/lakes.nsf/8587ed9590e5c25e80257d88004f11be/$file/whs%20nlt%20ypr%20report%202013-14%20for%20schools.pdf)

Blogs and special interest websites

A Medley Of Extemporanea

Post by librarian at Lilian Baylis technology college in London on preparing a reading for pleasure policy. Cites Sullivan and Brown research.

<https://deefinch.wordpress.com/2013/12/10/preparing-a-reading-for-pleasure-policy/>

Australian Federation of Graduate Women

The federation newsletter summarises the Daily Telegraph report on the CLS research.

<http://www.afgw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/AFGW-NSW-Newsletter-Nov-2013.pdf>

Bookegg

Blog on reading for pleasure

<http://bookegg.blogspot.co.uk/2013/09/reading-for-pleasure-puts-kids-ahead-in.html>

Down the tubes

Website that promotes the reading of comics in Britain

<http://downthetubes.net/?p=11984>

Exploring Learning

Blog by Mrs Holly English

<http://mrshollyexploringlearning.blogspot.co.uk/2014/11/the-impacts-of-daily-reading-on.html>

Galley Cat

Blog that summarises findings and links to press release

<http://www.adweek.com/galleycat/reading-for-pleasure-significantly-increases-kids-school-performance/78706?red=as>

International Literacy and Reading Blog

Blogsite coordinated by the Literacy and Reading Section of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. Summary of the findings and link to press release and research paper.

<http://blogs.ifla.org/literacy-reading/2014/01/29/british-study-on-pleasure-reading-impact/>

Larry Ferlazzo blog

Ferlazzo is an award-winning Californian teacher and author. He offers a summary of the findings and provides a link to the CLS press release.

<http://larryferlazzo.edublogs.org/2013/09/15/another-study-shows-the-benefits-of-reading-for-pleasure/#respond>

Live, Love, Learn. Donna @ CSU

Blog by teacher librarian that highlights the key findings

<http://thinkspace.csu.edu.au/livelovelearndonna/author/donna-oberdorfer-2/>

On fiction

North American academic magazine. Report on findings

<http://www.onfiction.ca/2013/12/research-bulletin-importance-of-leisure.html>

Philippine Basic Education

Blogsite that discusses education issues in not only the Philippines but the US. Article on the study and link to the research paper.

<http://philbasiceducation.blogspot.co.uk/2013/09/reading-reading-and-reading.html>

Teach secondary

Article that reports the CLS findings and considers how teachers can encourage reading for pleasure.

<http://www.teachsecondary.com/SEN/view/how-reading-for-pleasure-can-boost-achievement>

Teacher News

Another blog that summarises the findings

<http://teachernews.org.uk/?p=2863>

TeleRead

US website focusing on e-books, libraries and publishing. News report that provides link to research paper.

<http://www.teleread.com/education/uk-cohort-study-research-confirms-that-reading-enjoyment-counts-in-class/>

The American Conservative

Website article that reports Sullivan and Brown's findings and offers "some ideas for softening children's distaste" for reading.

http://www.theamericanconservative.com/do-your-kids-read-for-fun/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=do-your-kids-read-for-fun

The Core Standards

Another US website that reports the findings and concludes: "Whenever possible, we need

to advocate for students' right to read for pleasure." It provides a link to the research paper.
<http://thecorestandards.com/ela/reading-for-pleasure/>

The De Morgan Forum

Maths education blog. Reports the key findings and offers link to research paper
<http://education.lms.ac.uk/2013/09/reading-for-pleasure-boosts-pupils-results-in-maths/>

The Novel World

Blog that reports the findings and links to both the press release and the research paper
<http://thenovelworld.com/2013/09/17/reading-for-pleasure-can-improve-a-childs-performance-at-school/>

Wondergressive

Another US news site that provides link to the press release
<http://wondergressive.com/read-for-pleasure-to-significantly-boost-intelligence/>

Books aimed at teachers, parents or librarians

The following recently-published books, primarily aimed at teachers and school librarians, have included references to Sullivan and Brown's research.

Becoming an outstanding primary school teacher, Russell Grigg, Routledge 2014
Building communities of engaged readers: reading for pleasure, Teresa Cremin, Marilyn Mottram, Marilyn, Fiona Collins, Sacha Powell and Kimberly Safford, Routledge 2014

Developing children's critical thinking through picturebooks: a guide for primary and early years students and teachers, Mary Roche, Routledge 2015 (see page 68)

Devotions for Super Average Kids 2, Book 2, Bob Smiley and Jesse Florea, Tyndale House Publishers 2014

Schulbibliothek (School Library), Renate Kirmse, De Gruyter 2013

Further information about this German language book in English
<http://www.degruyter.com/view/product/186208>

The joy and power of reading: a summary of research and expert opinion. Lois Bridge, New York: Scholastic 2014 (this publication includes several references to Sullivan and Brown's research)

Turning the Page: The Evolution of the Book, Angus Phillips Routledge 2014

Media coverage

Broadcast interviews

(all given by Professor Sullivan in September 2013)

BBC London (TV)
BBC Radio 4 Today programme
Sky News Radio (this interview was shared with UK commercial radio stations)
BBC regional radio stations: Tees, Stoke, Bristol, Lincolnshire, Luton, Mersyside, Northampton, Sheffield, Stoke, Tees
Al Jazeera
Voice of Russia (radio)

'The press release about the study's findings has been accessed more than 75,000 times by visitors to the CLS and IOE websites'

News agency

Press Association

This September 11, 2013, Press Association article was carried by more than 100 of the UK's regional and local newspapers, including: *London Evening Standard*, *Belfast Telegraph*, *Barry & District News*, *Express and Star*, *This is Guernsey*, *Wiltshire Times*, *Selby Times* and the *Watford Observer*.

http://www.watfordobserver.co.uk/news/national/news/10666510.Children_who_read_better_at_maths/

BBC News website

"Maths advantage for pupils who read for pleasure", September 11, 2013 (this article has been shared more than 6,000 times by readers)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-24046971>

Daily newspapers

Guardian

"Reading for fun improves children's brains, study confirms", September 16, 2013 (this blog by Alice Sullivan has been shared more than 3,000 times by *Guardian* readers)

<http://www.theguardian.com/books/booksblog/2013/sep/16/reading-improves-childrens-brains>

Guardian

"How to teach reading for pleasure", December 16, 2013 (this article, the opening words of which link to CLS's September 2013 press release, has been shared more than 1,300 times by *Guardian* readers)

<http://www.theguardian.com/teacher-network/teacher-blog/2013/dec/16/reading-for-pleasure-reluctant-readers-schools-resources>

Daily Telegraph

"Reading for pleasure 'boosts pupils' results in maths", September 11, 2013 (this article has been shared by *Daily Telegraph* readers more than 3,000 times)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/10299763/Reading-for-pleasure-boosts-pupils-results-in-maths.html>

Specialist media

Nursery World

“Study highlights educational benefit of reading for pleasure”, September 13, 2013

<http://www.nurseryworld.co.uk/article/1211819/reading-enjoyment-helps-children-better-maths>

THE magazine

“Belinda Jack on cliché, the nemesis of thought”, November 28, 2013. Article by Belinda Jack, director of the University of Oxford’s undergraduate studies for modern languages, and Gresham professor of rhetoric, Gresham College, London.

<http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/news/belinda-jack-on-clich-the-nemesis-of-thought/2009274.fullarticle>

Overseas coverage

Australia

Sydney Morning Herald (the article also appeared in *The Age*, Melbourne)

“Reading gives kids an edge, study says”, October 11, 2013

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/education/reading-gives-kids-an-edge-study-says-20131010-2vcfv.html>

Canada

Vancouver Sun

“Libraries are worthwhile public investment”, January 14, 2014. Opinion piece by vice-chairman of the Vancouver Public Library Board which draws attention to Sullivan and Brown’s findings.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/technology/Libraries+worthwhile+public+investment/9387292/story.html>

France

Sciences Humaines (French-language monthly magazine)

“Mieux vaut lire pour le plaisir que d’avoir des parents diplômés”, February 11, 2014

http://www.scienceshumaines.com/mieux-vaut-lire-pour-le-plaisir-que-d-avoir-des-parents-diplomes_fr_32109.html

South Korea

Junior Herald (English language Korean website)

“Reading boosts math skills”, November 1, 2013

http://jheraldnew.ebse.co.kr/view.php?nsm=0&bt=ebsh001&pg=3&ud=2013110109254609795_31

Sri Lanka

Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka’s biggest-circulation English newspaper)

“Reading helps children’s maths”, November 23, 2014

<http://www.sundayobserver.lk/2014/11/23/jun02.asp>

Social media

The digest of findings that one social media user posted on Reddit on September 11, 2013 triggered a very lengthy discussion made up of 1,261 comments.

http://www.reddit.com/r/science/comments/1m6r1k/reading_for_pleasure_puts_children_ah_ead_in_the/