READING BEFORE SCHOOL

by

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This dissertation contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any University, and to the best of my knowledge contains no paraphrase or copy of material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference is made in the text of this dissertation.

Gaylene A. Ziegler
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This paper examines documented studies of the early reader, the child who learns to read at home before entering formal schooling. The historical view of when reading instruction should commence is outlined, as well as the recent intensive studies of the early reader by Dolores Durkin and Margaret Clark. Predisposing factors in early literacy are extrapolated from research studies and several early readers were examined in local state schools to ascertain how closely these young children matched those in studies cited. This leads to a discussion of the relationship between studies of young fluent readers and recent reading acquisition theories, and how these relate to classroom practice.
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