



Using Funds of Knowledge and Personal Books to Increase Student Engagement in Literacy

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1. Introduction

Students with developmental delays in a Montessori early childhood class participated in the program outlined in *Whole Child Reading* by Natalie Hale (2016). Research was conducted to determine:

- How does accessing a student's funds of knowledge impact the implementation and learning outcomes of the *Whole Child Reading* program?
- What effect does including funds of knowledge information in personal books have on student engagement?



Student reading his personal book with teacher.



Personal Book example.

2. Funds of Knowledge

Funds of knowledge is a term "to refer to the historically accumulated and culturally developed bodies of knowledge and skills essential for household or individual functioning and well-being" (Moll, Amanti, Neff, & Gonzales, 2001, p. 133).

- Student knowledge is valid and culturally relevant
- Utilization may be key to student engagement (Britcher, 2009)

3. Methodology

Participants

- Three students aged 4, 5, and 6
- Selected because of a developmental delay

Data Collection

- Qualitative, action research approach (Rosman & Rallis, 2017)
- Student interest inventory through a parent survey
- Student engagement scale
- Kindergarten Entry and Exit Profile (KEEP) and Individual Growth and Development (IGDIS) assessments

Data Analysis

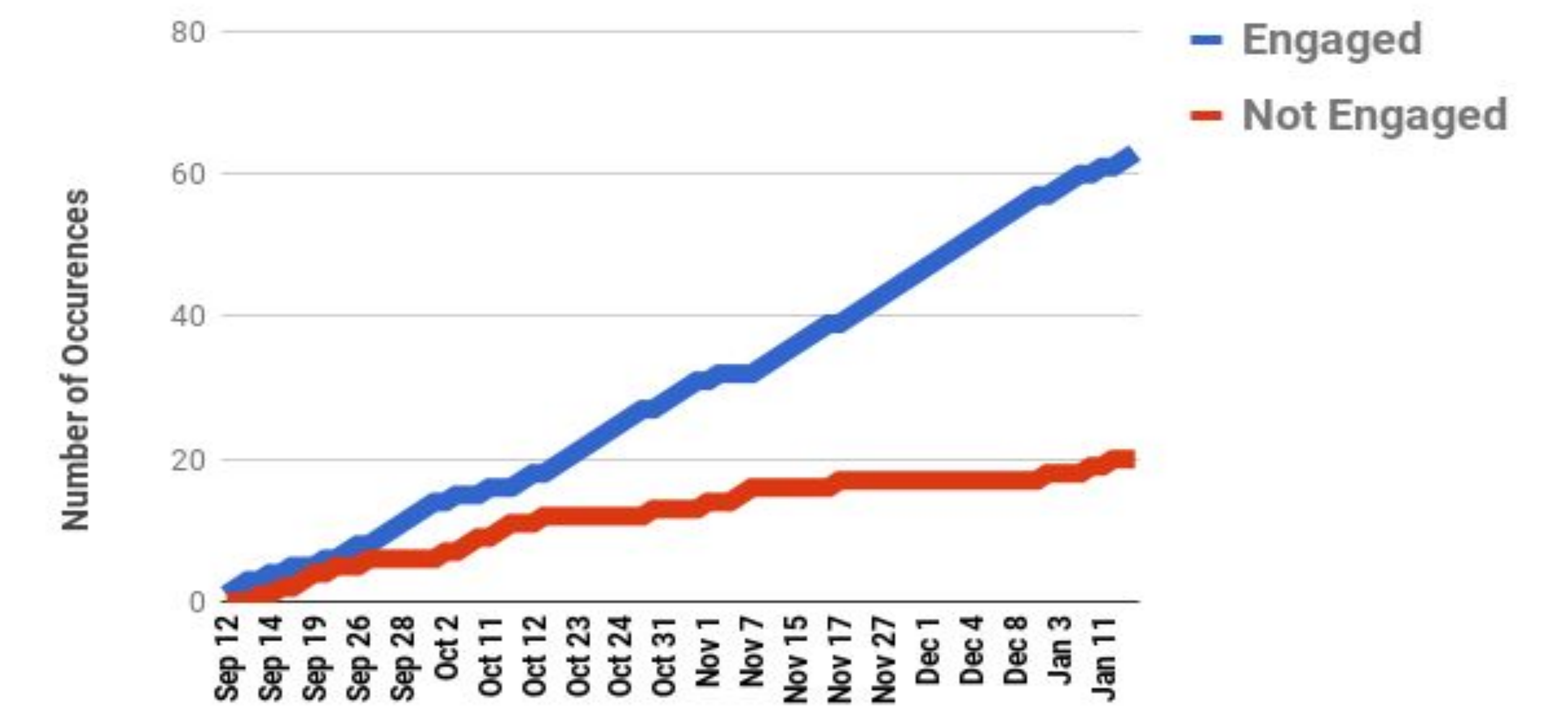
- Constant comparative method (Glaser & Strauss, 1967)

4. Findings

Using funds of knowledge information in personal books led to:

- Increased student engagement
- Increased student confidence
- Increased interest in literacy activities
- Increased academic outcomes
- Greater understanding between teachers, students and families

Student Engagement Over Time While Reading



5. Discussion

These findings can be explained by Vygotsky's constructivist theory (Ultanir, 2012).

- Humans construct knowledge based on previous experiences
- Learners actively engage in making their own meaning
- Students learn through active, social, experiences

6. Conclusion

By accessing and utilizing funds of knowledge information to make personal books, educators can:

- Increase their understanding of students and families
- Make materials culturally relevant and engaging
- Build student confidence and success

Contact

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References

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