

SEG - A TRUE EXTENSIVE READING EXPERIENCE -

An Effective and Efficient way of learning English

科学的教育グループ **SEG**® Introduction to SEG

Mr. Akio Furukawa is the president of SEG juku school in Tokyo. The school offers mathematics to high school students and English to junior and senior high school students. This ER program focuses on: "share the joy of reading, raise the ability to speak and write in English, and have the students attain high marks in



SEG Reading Log

Students will write down their reading record



Mr. Furukawa suggests students to read simple stories to increase their English level.

1. No dictionaries while reading
2. Skip over difficult words

Rules of Extensive Reading

3. If it is too difficult, stop reading

JOYFUL READING

1

SPEAK AND WRITE

2

HIGH ENTRANCE

3

university entrance exam and TOEFL." As members of PERC visited Mr. Akio Furukawa, we were greeted warmly by him and observed fantastic class activities.

Facts about SEG:

Founded in: 1993

Total Students: 1622

Number of Classes in a week : 138

Every classroom contains a ER library

Each class library has 12,000 to 30,000 books (550,000 books in total)



International recognition: SEG's extensive reading course has gained great attention from the English language education society.

Concepts of Extensive Reading Program In SEG



Learning English through large amount of extensive reading and foster enjoyment in reading at the same time. This would be one direct definition to illustrate the concept of learning in SEG. The extensive reading program would incorporate large amount of input of listening and direct reading. Mr. Akio Furukawa indicates extensive reading will lead to language acquisition, provided that certain preconditions are met. These include adequate exposure to the language, interesting material, and a relaxed, tension-free learning environment. The importance of extensive reading in providing learners with practice in automaticity of word recognition and decoding the symbols on the



printed page. It can enhance learners' general language competence. At SEG, students are learning English through reading, listening and speak with foreign teachers to enhance their oral speaking skill. In SEG's reading class, a native English foreign teachers would use correct pronunciation, unlike in a textbook. With correct pronunciation for every part of the reading, the higher of comprehension skill is acquired.

The program starts with reading the easy picture books and progressively students will read extensively through various level controlled books. With



massive extensive reading, students evidently showed their great increase in writing skill and reading more advanced novel such as “Harry Potter”. The quality of exposure to language that learners receive is seen as important to their potential to acquire new forms from the input. Extensive reading of high-interest material for students offers the

potential for reinforcing and recombining language learned in the classroom. Graded readers have a controlled grammatical and lexical load, and provide regular and sufficient repetition of new language forms. In each SEG classroom, there are nearly 20,000 books for students to choose from. Teachers will give book report or instructional sheets to complete for further comprehension checks and writing skill improvement. Effective reading will also lead to the shaping of the reader's thoughts, which naturally leads many learners to respond in writing with varying degrees of fluency.

Below will be an elaborated observation of an oral speaking class :

ORAL SPEAKING CLASS



The observation of the oral speaking class was marvellous experience. The foreign teacher had conducted English conversations between the students to practice their oral speaking skill. The teacher would further discuss the story by watching a related cartoon. Students were asked various questions related to the story. Relevant questions such as : who are the characters in the story?

What he/she was doing in the certain part of the story? How was the story developed over the sequence of the plot? What does the characters like? These are the fundamental questions which can help the students to retell the story through their own way of verbal expressions. Further



comprehension questions were asked by the teacher, students were encouraged to give feedback. We can observed the teacher incorporated different techniques to motivate the students to speak as much as they can in the classroom. It is crucial to learn English with full exposure to the language itself. Younger learners are far more likely to be able to absorb language from context and

usage in much the same way they acquired their own language. There is also another important technique which the teacher linked real life experience to the story. We can observed that the teacher need to invest time and energy in entertaining the participants by making use of multimedia sources to promote the books (e.g. video, audio, CD ROM, film, etc.). Teachers can maintain student motivation to read and secure their full engagement in the enjoyment the program provides.



Extensive reading and listening can truly contribute to effective English language learning experience. SEG is a true extensive reading experience. In SEG, the teacher is a role model who also orients the students to the goals of the program, explains the idea and methodology, keeps records of what has been read, and guides students in material selection and maximizing the effect of the program. Extensive Reading builds

vocabulary. When learners read a lot, they meet thousands of words and lexical (word) patterns that are not taught in textbooks. Through extensive reading assist learners understand grammar. It provides opportunities to see grammar in context so learners can extend their understanding of how grammar is really

used. Extensive Reading helps learners to build reading speed and reading fluency. In SEG, one of major objectives is reading for pleasure and enjoyment. This builds confidence and motivation which makes the learner a more effective user of language. We are very honoured to be part of this wonderful learning experience in Japan. Thank you for everything!



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