

POWER PUPILS

One year's progress... in a term



Struggling pupils have made a year's progress in just one term, astonished education experts said today.

The startling test results are from a revolutionary teaching project launched in Nottingham and backed by the Evening Post.

It involves 1,000 pupils in the Meadows and focuses on literacy skills.

The project - Success for All - works by setting aside up to 90 minutes intensive tuition a day in reading and writing.

University of Nottingham experts are hoping Government officials will be so impressed that they will endorse its methods nationwide.

Prof David Hopkins, who has spearheaded the project, revealed that children most behind in their reading had advanced the quickest - some making as much as four terms' progress in just 14 weeks.

And there were other benefits.

He said; "We found learning behaviour inside the schools had improved.

"Children were learning how to problem solve and work in groups and were able to transfer these skills to other curriculum areas."

One result which has excited researchers is that boys were making as much progress as girls, despite conventional research and national trends which branded boys slower.

Head teacher Sarah Harris said all the staff were delighted with the project.

And Wendy Houldey, who is co-ordinating the scheme at Trent Bridge Primary, said; "Its very structured, there's a lot of repetition and re-enforcement and it has very clear expectations of discipline and management which the children respond very positively to."

She added; "Parents feel they can see we are doing something for their children and they can see their children making progress."

The research results are being considered by officials in the department of education and Employment.

Prof Hopkins said; "I'm hopeful they will endorse the programme."

He said; "It involves a range of teaching strategies which are more powerful than conventional strategies and helps children to make meaning of the texts."

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