

Royal Holloway, University of London

A-level Psychology worksheets

Developmental Psychology

“Lift-the-flap books don’t help children learn to read”

In this worksheet, we will be discussing the research of Dr Jeanne Shinskey from the Psychology department at Royal Holloway. You will need a copy of the news article “Ditch the ‘lift-the-flap’ books” and the video interview with Dr Shinskey.

First, please read the news article “Ditch the ‘lift-the-flap’ books: 3D pages do NOT help children learn new words, claims expert”, and then answer the following questions:

1. What do you think the pros and cons of ‘lift-the-flap’ books are?
2. Summarise what you think the researcher did and what she found
3. What questions would you have for the researcher after reading this article?

Now watch the interview with Dr Shinskey

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v_hKhB1lxbo&t=4s), and answer the following questions.

1. Why do you think is it important to research this topic?
2. What was the researcher’s aim?
3. What were the two tasks that Dr Shinskey used to test whether infants had learned the word?
4. Imagine you have been asked to explain this research to parents. What would you say to them, and what recommendations would you make?
5. What kind of methodological considerations do you think the researcher has had to consider when designing her study?

Further study

Create a leaflet explaining to parents how children learn to read, and what kind of books they can use to help their child learn. Try and base the leaflet on research evidence.

You can find out more about Dr Shinskey’s research and the Royal Holloway Babylab here:

<https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/psychology/aboutus/babylab/home.aspx>