

## ABSTRACT

Reading is losing its attraction for students in schools. Awareness of students' reading interests does not appear to be a priority in most schools. However, using children's interests as the basis for curriculum decision making will help retain interest while making the learning experience more meaningful. In order to do this teachers must 'know, be familiar with, provide, and use literature that students will enjoy' (Higginbotham, 1999).

The current study focuses on primary school children, especially those in International schools in Sri Lanka. 180 students from three International schools participated in this study, which used the survey method to gather data. The purpose of this study was to investigate the reading interests of primary school children, consider differences according to age and gender and identify potential factors that influence those interests. This study found clear patterns of reading interests among primary school children of the schools. Gender and age were found to influence interest in certain genres and types of reading material. When considering factors that influence reading interest, the influence from home was found to be greater than that from school; further highlighting the importance of parental involvement in a child's life.