



- Professional Development School Student Teacher
- Riverside Elementary School
 - Mentor Teachers: Suzanne Salinas – 3rd grade
Bonnie Dufty – 6th grade
- “Learning to Care Caring to Learn”
- Research Project Purpose:

The purpose of this research project is to identify effective methods for parents to help their student with his/her homework. The definition of homework, for the purpose of this study, is any school work that a student needs to finish outside of school hours.
- Research Questions:
 - What efforts do parents make to help their student with his/her homework?
 - Which methods do students prefer when receiving help with their homework?

Methodology

• I sent out two different surveys for this research project. I sent out a seven statement survey to the parents of 3rd and 6th grade students, with a space to provide written examples of assistance. I also sent out a different 10 statement survey to a group of 3rd and 6th grade students, with a space to provide written comments. I received 32 surveys from the group of 3rd graders and 26 surveys from the group of 6th graders. I received 32 surveys from the parents of the 3rd graders and 25 surveys from the parents of the 6th graders. The statements I provided were concerning student and parent preferences when receiving and giving help with homework. The participants were asked to choose which statement(s) pertained to him/her and to provide an original example(s), if possible.

Example Statements

Student Survey:

() *It helps when my parent(s) are in the same room with me while I am doing my homework, even if they are doing other things, then I can ask them questions if I need to.*
(statement #2)

Parent Survey:

() *Making sure there are plenty of resources at home as possible, such as books, dictionaries, paper, pencils, computers, thesauruses, etc.*
(statement #5)

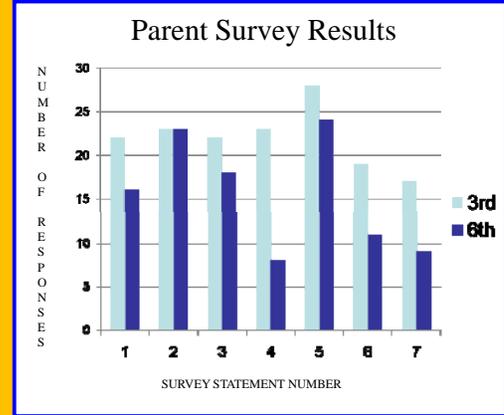
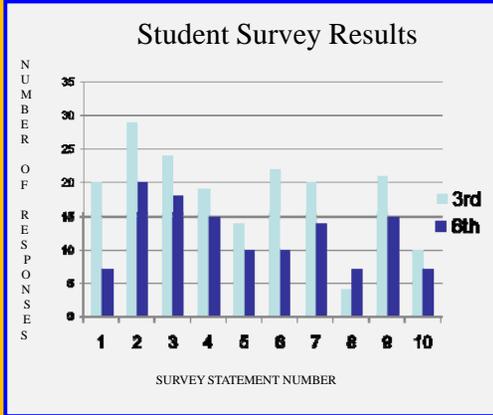
• **Data Analysis Procedures:** After I collected the data, I organized it in a chart. I organized it by grade level and data source. Then I analyzed for patterns and themes.

• These findings cannot be generalized due to the small sample. The purpose of this research project was to learn more about a specific area. Discovering more about which methods parents use when helping their student with homework will later benefit myself and other teachers.

TEACHER ACTION RESEARCH

“Practitioners investigate their own practice, observe, describe and explain what they are doing in company with one another, and produce their own explanations for what they are doing and why they are doing it...they constantly test these theories against the critical responses of others to see if theories can withstand criticism, in other words, have validity” (Whitehead & McNiff, 2006, p. 13).

Reflection: I conducted this research project to discover different methods that parents can use to help their student with his/her homework. I found that both the 3rd and 6th graders surveyed have very similar needs when it comes to completing their homework. I also found that the parents of both the 3rd and 6th graders had similar methods of helping their child with homework. If I were to conduct this research experiment in the future, I might have the students include their GPA on the survey. This would tell me at what level the students were and how they preferred to be helped with their homework. An interesting pattern to look for would be to see if the GPA of a student was connected in any way with the way that student received help with his/her homework.



Review of Literature

- [http://www.parent-institute.com/parent/resources/tips/tips\(start\).php](http://www.parent-institute.com/parent/resources/tips/tips(start).php)
- <http://www.parentinstitute.com/educator/products/subject.php#homework>
- Cossey R., Stenmark J.K., & Thompson V. (1986). *Family Math*. Berkeley, California: Lawrence Hall of Science.
- Fredericks A.D. & LeBlanc E.P. (1986). *Letters To Parents – Over 200 Ideas For Building Reading Skills*. Glenview, Illinois: Good Year Books.
- Hall K.P. (1997). *Parent Letters To The Intermediate Grades*. Cypress, California: Creative Teaching Press Inc.

