Research Summaries database

About the Research Summaries database

The Research Summaries database aims to support the work of Victoria’s education practitioners. Summaries of high quality research reports identified through local and international scans are regularly uploaded to the online database.

The following are examples of research summaries available in the Research Summaries database.

Recent research summaries

Raising the potential of System Leadership
By David Hopkins

This paper proposes that sustained improvement of all schools is not possible unless the whole system is moving forward. Reviewing international practices of system leader roles, the author highlights how these roles have evolved in response to the adaptive challenge of system change and presents four core domains of system leadership: setting direction; managing teaching and learning; developing people and the developing the organisation. Hopkins presents an emerging model of system leadership where, together with aspirations and capabilities, effective system leaders strive for equity and inclusion through acting on context and culture and through giving their communities a sense of worth and empowerment.


Promoting quality teaching and productive pedagogies in teacher education programs
By N Aveling & H Hatchell

This paper is grounded in the experience of a group of teacher educators with a cohort of 257 pre-service teachers. By modelling ‘best practice’ themselves, the teacher educators aimed to equip pre-service teachers with the necessary skills, knowledge and attitudes to engage in quality teaching, addressing social justice concerns. Through an analysis of the results of student teachers’ examinations, the researchers critically reviewed their own pedagogies. It was evident that student teachers do better when they are explicitly asked to make connections between theoretical constructs and the implications they have for their future professional context and do less well when theory is divorced from practice.


Further information

The Research Summaries database can be accessed at: Research Summaries

Teachers as Researchers database

The publication Teachers as Researchers is a database that has been developed to support teachers to build their research knowledge, skills and practice; and it comprises a range of essential readings, key research organisations, and recommended publications.

Every child, every opportunity
Recent research summaries

National Numeracy Review Report

Council of Australian Governments (COAG)

The National Numeracy Review Report was commissioned by the Human Capital Working Group of COAG. It brings together the evidence of national and international teaching practices on numeracy. Diverse themes are covered including numeracy and mathematics in Australia, supporting mathematics learning, addressing the numeracy needs of particular groups of students, and teacher education and professional development.


The state of Victoria’s young people: A report on how Victorian young people aged 12–24 are faring

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development & Department of Planning and Community Development

This publication provides information on how young Victorians aged 12–24 are faring against 35 measurable outcomes in health, learning, development, safety and wellbeing. The report also discusses the challenges that need to be overcome to ensure all young people are given the opportunities to reach their full potential.


Australian young people: Their stories, their families and post-school plans

By J Bryce, M Anderson, T Frigo & P McKenzie

This is a study of Australian young people who participated in the Smith Family Learning for Life program.

It presents the ‘challenges faced by Learning for Life students in making successful post-school transitions’. The report includes a discussion of young people’s stories, presentation of the findings and concluding comments.


Strategies for improving outcomes for young children: A catalogue of evidence-based interventions

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

This catalogue provides information on intervention strategies to improve outcomes for Victorian children and young people in 15 key areas including reading, writing and numeracy, absenteeism and parenting support. It provides an evidence base on each area together with several recommended strategies that can be implemented and adapted to meet local needs.


Safer children in a digital world

By R Bartholomew

This report reviews evidence from child development and brain development literature, as a guide to identifying and managing potential risks to children when using the internet or playing video games. It recommends that alongside new technology, there is new shared culture of responsibility with families, industry, government and others in the public sector, all working to reduce the availability of potential harmful material, restrict children’s access to it and increase children’s resilience.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/byronreview/ (2.7MB)

Further information

Research@Work

Research@Work aims to assist the professional needs of departmental staff, educational researchers and classroom practitioners whose role or responsibility includes undertaking and/or commissioning research.

The paper provides valuable information about the role and importance of research in education and what research at work looks like. In addition there is a Further Reading resource which includes sections on research articles, research publications and research websites.