

K12EA joins hands with private organizations to promote engaging digital reading activities

(Photo/Text: Chiang Wan-tai, Division of Junior High and Elementary Education)



The K-12 Education Administration (K12EA) has been working with non-governmental organizations to organize a variety of reading activities with the objective of promoting a healthy reading habit among the student population. In 2020, K12EA provided a total of NT\$16,047,000 in subsidies to 23 non-governmental organizations in line with this purpose. Most of these non-governmental organizations adopted a mobile strategy to carry out reading promotion events in various schools, with the priority being on schools located in remote areas. In addition, from 2020, K12EA has also begun to push for the promotion of digital reading in order to build up students' digital reading literacy.

Take, for example, the Xizhi Dynamic Reading Society from New Taipei City, which brought the Story Theater Reading Club to 6 elementary schools in remote areas in 2020 to encourage students to read. In this activity, the group transformed stories from 2-dimensional picture books

into 3-dimensional theatrical presentations such as skits, puppet plays, and *kamishibai*. This approach captures the attention of elementary school students and allows them to experience reading, defined in a broad sense. After the end of the theatrical presentation, students were guided to ponder the themes of the presentation and ask questions that can be divided into 4 levels, namely extraction, inference, interpretation and integration, and comparison and evaluation. Dynamic reading extension activities covering the skills of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and acting were also carried out to help students digest and understand the story, as well as to generate and share some takeaways. From the feedback gathered through post-show questionnaires, students enjoyed the activity tremendously. Besides indicating that they liked the acting, costumes, and props, the students also expressed that they look forward to more opportunities to get to know even more interesting and novel stories. As for teachers, they enjoyed the interactive aspect of the story theater and believed that this theatrical mode of reading would increase student engagement.

In view of the rapid development of the Internet and digital technology and the corresponding changes to data use and reading behavior among students, K12EA has worked with the [Taiwan Read](#) Foundation to create the E-Literacy Online Portal. The portal seeks to popularize online reading and encourage students to build up their digital reading literacy as well as their ability to carry out self-directed learning. Additionally, 2020 saw the launch of the Digital Literacy and Learning Program, in which students got to participate in games on the Digital Literacy online platform that required them to overcome increasingly difficult obstacles to level-up as they go along. It was not all fun and games, though, as the games imparted skills such as critical thinking and online data organizational skills in the process of play. The Read Online and Explore Project (ROEP) was also organized to provide opportunities for students to showcase their fruits of labor and to encourage inter-school exchanges.

K12EA stated that the nurturing of literacy skills requires a long-term approach. The Administration hopes that they could continue to work with private organizations to help students improve their comprehension skills and literacy when it comes to digital reading, in order for

Taiwan's future literacy level to be elevated, which will then increase Taiwan's international competitiveness. K12EA will continue to work hand-in-hand with its partners to further improve the literacy level of the country's youth, as well as empower students to acquire the ability to engage in self-directed digital reading and learning in the future.