

COMMENTS FROM LEADERS IN LEARNING

"I have always felt that I am fairly well read, however, your presentation and now your website has given me new direction...I have always had a sense of urgency for the children in my care (as a speech pathologist, a principal, and now a director of special education) and now your information gives me the meat to start alarming others... I am sending this URL to all of the principals in my district and am going to set up time after school to watch the videos together as a professional learning community... thank you so much for the work that you have done to bring all of these people together, especially the children." - **Mary Friesen, Director, Special Education, Thomasville City Schools, Thomasville, GA**

"A Mind-Blowing Way to View Learning: While many of us have observed this effect on an intuitive level, it took writer, researcher, and learning activist David Boulton to express the problem of incomplete learning in terms of its devastating effect on kids: See what he has to say and be as blown away as I was! Then imagine schools designed around these humane concepts." - **Patricia Kokinos, ChangeTheSchools.com**

"It's a wonderful thing that you're doing. I appreciate the scope of what you're doing. It's called information improvement which is the prime issue in knowledge advancement. How do you put things together in ways that are easily understandable and communicable to other people? You're talking about a big thing. People see pieces of it and you're putting together a whole lot of things that no individual one of us has a grasp on." - **Todd Risley, Professor Emeritus of Psychology at the University of Alaska, Co Author: "Meaningful Differences in the Everday Experience of Young American Children"**

"As superintendent, I took a few days to revitalize my learning. I have been attending a meeting sponsored by the Center for Creative Leadership. I was provided a grant to attend the conference and to learn about exciting new research in reading. I have had 3 days of powerful workshops led by some of the leading researches in brain based learning and reading. One of the most interesting presentations was given by David Boulton. I would encourage all parents, teachers, and staff to visit the web site www.childrenofthecode.org and view some of the powerful videos related to the problems and challenges in reading instruction." - **From the blog of Dr. Terry K. Holliday, Superintendent, Iredell-Statesville Schools, Statesville, NC**

"There is NOTHING like it anywhere... This is POWERFUL." – **Robert Sweet, Founder National Right to Read Foundation, Retired Professional Staff Member, U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Education and the Workforce, Washington, DC**

"I'm grateful for your project "Children of the Code." It has proven to be a wealth of great information and insight into a problem that I am familiar with and learning more about every day. I'm telling everyone to go to (the COTC site) if they want to get a healthy perspective on one of the most important issues facing our country, and maybe the globe. We have a big ideas ourselves on how to shift the dial on illiteracy and hope to leverage a lot of your work along the way." - **J. Goebel, Chair, Strategic Planning Committee, Prentice School Board of Trustees, Orange County, California**

"Like most scholars, until awakened by the "Children of the Code" project, I took reading as much for granted as eating and drinking. Very few of us have paid sufficient attention to the specific emotions triggered in children as they begin to read. Yet any impediment to mastery of the confusing code that connects spoken and written English must trigger shame, the emotion that stops all useful thought. So painful does shame become in the public arena of the schoolroom that our children swiftly divide into two streams and two futures purely on the basis of their response to the shame that accompanies the struggle to learn our written language. "Children of the Code" merits the serious attention of anyone interested in emotional health of children or the future of America." - **Donald L. Nathanson, M.D. Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, Jefferson Medical College, Author: "Shame and Pride" and "Knowing Feeling"**

"As a veteran principal in a large K-6 school filled with largely disadvantaged youth and many struggling readers, I find your website highly useful, intellectually provocative, and very compelling. We've used your videos in faculty meetings, parent meetings, and study groups. I've shared the site with my colleagues. Thank you, thank you, thank you. I'm looking forward to the time that our teacher-training institutions of higher learning catch up. I also hope you are encouraging our presidential candidates (or perhaps their aides) to start making connections between literacy and the health of our nation." - **Barbara Weiss, Principal, Meadow Hill School, Newburg, NY**

"Wow, that's interesting. I think that's a lovely description of it (the challenge of learning to read). It really is a virtual reality, it is a *matrix*." - **Dr. Tim Shanahan, Chair National Early Literacy Panel, National Reading Panel Member, President (2006), International Reading Association**

"It's great. I think this is fascinating. It's wonderful that you're doing this." - **Sandra Feldman, Past-President, American Federation of Teachers**

"I had never heard so much expertise in one seminar. Excellent presentation." - **A. Mares, Region One Education Service Center, Edinburg, Texas**

"I've taught the literacy courses at University of Dayton for the past three years...this after teaching for 30 years...your website has totally changed the type of material and the message I'm delivering to my students. Your information has provided both a foundation and a springboard into what avenues to pursue. I've woven in your video clips to help make various points...the clips are awesome! I finally feel like I am able to offer my students some truly valuable information about teaching reading. I am eternally grateful for your information and am using it to provide our teachers-to-with the type of knowledge that will really make a difference in teaching children how to read." - **Dr. B. Lewellyn, University of Dayton, OH**

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"I am in awe of the research you have. In my 35 years as an educator and a reading teacher, I have never read anything to come close to your findings. Teaching reading is becoming more of a science than a mystery. Thank you." - **G. Robertson, Director of Elementary and Federal Programs, Autauga County School System, AL**

"It's a wonderful thesis and it's so refreshing to hear you articulate it because I guess I am in total agreement with it and I have not really heard people articulate it as clearly you have... I love what you are doing." - **Dr. Louisa Moats, Sopris West Educational Services, Author of: "Speech to Print: Language Essentials for Teachers"**

"Your work is incredibly valuable to my work! Thank you for helping me be more prepared with information and resources for the parents I work with. Finding your site is the best serendipity I have received in a very long time." - **Sandra Rodriguez, Parent Education Specialist, Los Angeles County Office of Education, CA**

"The workshop material was fantastic. When you look at things from the perspective of "How did we get here," rather than ONLY "what do we do about it," you can explain & troubleshoot & problem-solve WITH BUY-IN FROM THOSE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ISSUE (and isn't buy-in an enormous practical aspect of problem-solving?) with greater efficiency & positive outcomes! I am so grateful to you for bringing in the emotional factor. So many times, when we talk about this with our teachers and support personnel and even administrative staff, they look at us like we're 3-headed! It is just so refreshing to hear someone eloquently and IN SUCH A REALM OF PRACTICALITY say that this is a huge part of the problem! Quite good, complete, practical, and NECESSARY information for teachers and administrators!" - **S. Frame, ERBA Head Start, Greenup, Illinois**

"David Boulton spoke after lunch and no one went to sleep. Everyone was very aware of his passionate presentation and enjoyed it greatly. He was great and the videos that he utilized were very moving. The information was outstanding! It was very convincing to our group of educational leaders. Keep up the great project." - **J. Simmons, Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators**

"Thank you for everything you are doing. I look forward to sharing all your videos with the teachers I work with in schools and the faculty members I present to at conferences and through informal communications." - **Mary Spencer, M.Ed., Colorado Department of Education**

"This was one of the best literacy presentations I have ever seen!" - **A. Ryan, Success by 6-United Way, Buffalo, NY**

"This was great! You are right on target. As a parent of a dyslexic child and an educator I feel that your message needs to be shared with entire communities." - **A. Burton, International Dyslexia Association, Board Member, NC**

"I am a psychologist from Newark, Ohio, and recently attended your presentation on "The Effect of Learning to Read Difficulties on Mental Health" at the School-Based Mental Health conference in Cleveland. As a mental health practitioner working in schools, I regularly see the effects of learning problems on children's mental health. Your presentation however, informed me at new levels and inspired me to new heights for working with students' reading abilities and struggles." - **Dr. B. Bloomster, School Intervention Program Coordinator, Newark, Ohio**

"I love what you have all done and am using the videos in graduate school psychology courses as well as in consultation with elementary teachers and administration". - **Dr. Lynn O'Connell, Alfred University, NY**

"Thank you for your provocative presentation to the librarians in Chicago. Over the course of the next days' workshops and the remainder of the conference we heard many remarks about how you "set the tone" for the conference by reminding us what we are up against." - **J. Nelson, Youth Services Coordinator, Pierce County Library System**

"I loved this seminar! It is a whole new way of looking at these issues." - **M. Hord, Clay County Literacy Coalition, Orange Park, Florida**

"You are doing a great service - you are a voice crying in the wilderness about a problem that is very real right now & is only going to get worse (given the ongoing demographic changes of the US) AND you are presenting the way to help (rather than just admiring the problem!) you've done (& continue to do) outstandingly well!!!! good show! good work!" - **Dr. B. Stone, Psychologist, Kansas**

"This topic has changed the way in which I will now view language and how it is incorporated into some of our agency's literacy based programs." - **S. Berkley, Pre-K coordinator, Chicago Youth Centers**

"I cannot say enough about this project "Children of the Code." As a professional working with children and their families (I'm a pediatrician) and in particular with children with special needs...I have been religiously following and reading each interview. I have shared your website with many parents and educators. There is so much excellent work going on in each of the categories (from neuroscience to behavioral science to education) that can give us the tools to tackle this horrendous gap of reading ability in our nation. My hope is that this information does not remain in the confines of academia and makes it to the "front lines" starting in the department of obstetrics to the nursery and on to nursery school and beyond. I have sent your URL to every educator I know and certainly have passed it on to every parent group I have spoken to. Thank you for undertaking such a colossal project....I hope you'll continue to investigate and hopefully involve national as well as local lawmakers, educators, researchers and parents in the quest for "breaking the code." Our children are counting on us. Our democracy rests on it." Thank you - **G. Muscolo, MD**