

## Usage of Home Reading Corner: Experience from Kids of Sri Lanka

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### Abstract

*Reading corner is an area of a room set aside for books, especially one intended to provide a quiet or comfortable place for reading (www.lexico.com,2021). Its history has gone to the mid-19th century. Studying knowledge status of Sri Lankan kid's regarding home reading corner, Introducing the home reading corner and maintaining method for kids, identifying interest & ideas of kids for home reading corner and introducing simple exercises to create DIY home reading corner at their home were objectives of the study. With the above objectives, case study method used for the study. Kid's interest reading home reading corner, creating DIY library, using books and maintenance, decoration of reading corner, creating bookmarks are revealed from the study.*

**Key word:** Reading, Reading corner, DIY library, Kids of Sri Lanka, Primary education

### Introduction

Reading corner is an area of a room set aside for books, especially one intended to provide a quiet or comfortable place for reading ([www.lexico.com](http://www.lexico.com),2021). According to history, this concept has been used since the mid19th century. However, this concept changed, grew and was replaced with time. This concept is used in most countries, institutes, schools, preschools and own houses differently. Most commercial institutes, public organizations, Libraries implement the reading corner concept. In 2008, Raising Readers in Story Country of England created a reading corner toolkit. However, this concept is new for Sri Lanka and Sri Lankan kids.

Basically, held a programme regarding home reading corner to kids of Sri Lanka selecting randomly in the last literature month. Hundreds of kids registered to the programme.as well as introduced creating DIY library concepts to them. Specially studied their home reading corner, decorations and bookmark creating. Most of them are very interested and maintain their home reading corner.

### DIY Concept and home reading corner

According to Cambridge dictionary DIY is “Do- It- Yourself: the activity of decorating or repairing your home, or making things for your home yourself, rather than paying someone else to do it for you. This concept is used in the library field now. It's a very valuable and important thing. DIY related to all fields. This concept engages with the home reading corner. It's a very useful thing to a person. The DIY concept can be used for a home reading corner. DIY home reading corner concept many famous things in overseas countries. However, this concept is very important to kids. Because they implement a kid's mind and way to think out of box activity through this. How to create DIY library holders, book categorizing, book identifying separately and how to do book protection, how to create a reading corner using DIY, how to decorate reading corner using DIY are done by researchers for kids. Usage of home reading corner on low status of Sri Lanka. Studying Status of reading corner at Sri Lanka, introducing home reading corner using DIY concept & Identifying Interest of Students for the home reading corner were mainly focus of this study. DIY reading corner at home is very successful for

implementing reading behaviour and to develop out of box activity for kids.

## **Objectives**

- Studying knowledge status of Sri Lankan kid's regarding home reading corner
- Introducing the home reading corner and maintaining method for kids
- Identifying interest & ideas of kids for home reading corner
- Introducing simple exercises to create DIY home reading corner at their home

## **Methodology**

The case study methods used for the study. The kid's WhatsApp group of Sri Lankan Read plus Organization's selected as a population for the study. Those all members were selected as the sample for the study. All kids attended to all activities as well as created their own reading corner at home.

## **Results**

Following activities were used for the kids who attended with the programme of creating a reading corner at home. Regarding the interest of a kid's home reading corner, creating a reading corner, DIY library, decoration of reading corner, creating bookmarks were among them.

### **Interest of kid's home reading corner**

Reading is a good habit for people. Many people have trained since the little age of their babies for that. It is a new thing for the Sri Lankan environment. Introduced concept of home reading corner and situation regarding overseas countries by the researchers. As well as the researcher presented using attractive pictures for that. Because Could Identified students appear during the programmes. This concept is very valuable for the minds of kids. Special as in the covid 19 situation. Many questions were getting into the programme among the kids. It increased kids' interest and engagement for the programme. After the programme kids mentioned many interesting ideas regarding home reading corner. Finally, they promised to create their reading corner at home. That was a valuable concept for kids. Kids' interesting comments were very positive. Home reading corner is important, creativity and timely activity for kids.

### **Creating a reading corner**

Introducing a reading corner at home is very interesting to kids. The programme communicated readings creating their reading corner at home for them. In the programme researcher introduced regarding creating a home reading corner. as well as the researcher who introduced a simple method to creating a reading corner using free space in the house. It wants a small quiet space to create a reading corner. as well as not needing special requirements for creating that. Using a sofa, chair, and any comfortable environment suitable for kids to use as a reading corner. Kids can play, read, sleep and do their activities using their reading corner. especially when they commented to the researcher about that. After the programme kids mentioned many interesting

ideas regarding creating a home reading corner. Finally, they promised to create their reading corner at home & maintain. That was a creative activity for them. Kids interest comments were very positive and happy. Creating a reading corner at home is important, creativity" valuable and an activity for kids.

### **DIY reading corner at home**

DIY means Do-it- "Yourself". It's mostly related to the reading corner and library. This concept is used for the library field. It's many suitable for home reading. Because home reading corners can be created ourselves. It is most useful for kids. Used cardboards, A4 sheets, Marker pens, milk powder box, biscuits box were used to create library racks, book holders, bookshelves for home reading corner.

How to create DIY library holders, book categorizing, book identifying separately and how to do book protection, how to create a reading corner using DIY, and how to decorate reading corner using DIY were taught by the researcher for kids. Finally, they commented to create their reading corner at home & maintain. That was a creative activity for them. After the programme, photos regarding their DIY reading corner kids were shared with me. Kids' interesting comments were very positive. Using DIY to Create reading corner at home is important, creativity" valuable and an activity for kids.

### **Decoration of reading corner**

This activity was implemented by kids after they taught. Making pencil holders, putting pictures, putting toys etc... are included there. Plastic bottle, flip chart papers/ newspaper, marker pen, A4 sheets used for that. How to make a pencil holder. After the activity kids created pencil holders according to their own ideas. The main thing they had created as the example of researcher. Decoration reading corner was a creativity activity for them. There were many valuable things to see out of the box. Kids commented were most positive. Further, Adding DIY decorations and putting any other materials at home reading corner successfully and interest for kids.

### **Creating bookmarks.**

This purpose is teaching how to protect their reading materials. After reading how to put a mark using a DIY bookmark, I mainly focus on that. Making interesting book marks taught by researchers. Card boards, A4 sheets, markers were used for that. Kids also created many bookmarks as instructions of researchers. It was a big lesson for them. Kids' comments and reactions were most positive.

### **Conclusion**

Home reading is a more important thing for kids. as well as using the DIY concept most useful for that. Information regarding creating DIY library holders, book categorizing, book identifying separately and how to do book protection, how to create reading corners using DIY, how to decorate reading corners delivered to kids by researchers. Creating DIY home reading corner, decoration, usage of books and conducting helpful to developing knowledge, activity, attitude and mind. Furthermore, its most important thing is to increase reading behaviour of kids.

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