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**Master Thesis Defense**

Entitled

*TEACHER BELIEFS IN THE VALUE OF INTERACTIVE READING STRATEGIES AND THEIR  
IMPLEMENTATION IN AL AIN KINDERGARTENS*

by

Saleha Ali Saleh Al Harthi

Faculty Advisor

Dr. Fiona Baker, Department of Curriculum and Instruction

College of Education

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<https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/08a7b3ef97554d529b27dc8f14cd127f>

Abstract

This study aimed to investigate beliefs surrounding the value assigned to each of the UAE Ministry of Education teaching and assessment of reading strategies by teachers and to explore the frequency of strategy use in teaching and assessment in Al Ain KG English classrooms. A questionnaire on teacher beliefs was distributed to 231 teachers in 26 Al Ain kindergartens. A convenient sample of 17 English teachers employed at 4 of the kindergartens were then observed for their use of reading strategies in the classroom. The participants themselves were all from Al Ain city and its environs. The quantitative research data showed that participants believed that the teaching strategy 'reading aloud' was the most important with 'facial expressions' and 'gestures' believed supposed to be important as well. 'Using context clues' and 'partner reading strategies' were believed to be of the least importance. For reading assessment, the majority of participants believed that 'pointing to words in a sentence' was the most commonly used reading assessment strategy applied in the classroom, while 'identifying words that can be broken up into syllables' was believed to be of the least value. The qualitative data collection showed that participants frequently used oral language, letter knowledge, print awareness, and then phonemic awareness as reading strategies while questioning, phonemic awareness, and print awareness were used as reading assessment strategies in the classroom. 'Guided reading' and 'retelling a story' were applied the least. Based on the findings of the study, a several of recommendations are made to inform the Ministry of Education on teacher beliefs and on suggestions to increase the implementation of all strategies required by the Ministry of Education.

**Keywords:** Teaching reading strategies, reading assessment, KG English Teachers, Al Ain KG schools, Beliefs, Use.