

**Kelly, Barbara, 2002, *Recreational Reading in the Senior Classes: A Study of Parental Influence on their Children's Recreational Reading Habits***

**ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION**

The purpose of this study is to assess parental influence on children's recreational reading in the senior classes in the primary school. The study explores what practices parents employ that influence their children's recreational reading habits. The search is compared with The National Reading Assessment conducted 1998 by Cosgrove *et al.*

Chapter One outlines the background of the study. It discusses the importance of reading and parental influence on reading. The main findings of The National Assessment of English Reading conducted in 1998 are summarised. A description of the study and a profile of both the Togher area (a Cork City suburb) and the schools involved is supplied.

Chapter Two considers the process of reading and the reasons why we teach children to read. The issues which surround the teaching of reading are debated. Factors which affect children's learning are considered. The various studies into English reading and the current English reading curriculum are discussed.

Chapter Three explores various educational research methodologies. The reasons for choosing specific methodologies for this study are explained. A detailed account of the each project is given.

Chapter Four analyses the results and compares the results of the study to The National Assessment of English Reading conducted in 1998. Comparisons are made between the pupils' questionnaires and the parents' questionnaires. Links are drawn between results of both sets of questionnaires.

Chapter Five consists of an overview of the dissertation, conclusions of the research and some recommendations for future research.