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ASSESSMENT OF READING HABITS AND COMPETENCE OF FILIPINO CHILDREN

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This study provides a profile of Filipino primary pupils in terms of reading competence and reading habits. Locally-developed standardized reading tests were used to measure reading competence. A questionnaire was also fielded to collect data on reading habits. The instruments were administered towards the end of the school year to a cohort group of 899 pupils when they were in their fourth and sixth grades of elementary education. The reading competencies that were measured include scanning, vocabulary, comprehension, and study aids. The reading habits that were surveyed were number of hours spent daily on reading, reading companion, kinds of reading materials, and type of reading strategies used. The results showed that majority of the sample pupils demonstrated relatively competent reading abilities when they were in grades 4 and 6. Likewise, the patterns of reading habits of the cohort are relatively consistent as they move from grade 4 to grade 6. The results also implied that reading habits tend to influence reading competence.