

**Posted on the ASCD Smart(sic)Brief in the “EDPULSE” section.
Stephen Krashen, August 29, 2019**

Which of the following literacy practices are most effective in improving reading skills for early readers?

- 1. Exposing all students to complex texts, not only “just right” reading levels.**
- 2. Building general content knowledge through science and social studies topics**
- 3. Having strong phonics instruction.**
- 4. Having a high-quality curriculum based on state standards and newsearch.**

NOT listed as an option: Access to books, libraries, librarians. And those presented are wrong or incomplete:

- 1. Harder does not necessarily mean better (Alfie Kohn). We acquire through understanding what we read. And those who read more read more complex texts as their interests develop.**
- 2. Those who read more for pleasure know more science, social studies, history.**
- 3. At best, a weak phonics program, just the basics.**
- 4. “High quality curriculum” and state standards usually don’t go together.**

Have these people read ANY of the research in the last few decades on the power of self-selected reading and the limits of phonics?

And as usual, there is no place to comment on this in the ASCD website.