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.