



## Educational Considerations

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Volume 6 | Number 3

Article 2

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4-1-1979

### Viewpoint: Helping the reading professional

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#### Recommended Citation

Phillips, Catherine Anne (1979) "Viewpoint: Helping the reading professional," *Educational Considerations*: Vol. 6: No. 3. <https://doi.org/10.4148/0146-9282.1940>

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**Viewpoint**

# Helping the reading professional

Reading instruction has always been one of the primary goals of American education. Current trends such as "back to basics" and minimal competency testing have re-affirmed this emphasis. The teaching of reading is a growing, expanding, evolving field. Recently, there has been a strong surge of interest in teaching reading to secondary school and college students as well as adults. This endeavor requires different materials, techniques, skills and resources. Another area of expansion has been that of multi-disciplinary development as fields not related to reading instruction such as counseling, linguistics, language development and dialect are being utilized by reading specialists in an effort to apply relevant research to the improvement of reading instruction.

Other topics continuing to receive much attention from reading professionals deal with the affective domain, children's attitudes toward books and the ever-popular issue of critical reading. The field of reading instruction continues to be a challenge to professionals in the field. Such a challenge can be met by keeping up with current developments in reading instruction, new insights into established methods, materials, and techniques. It is the intent of this issue to assist the reading professional in meeting the challenge of today by offering the information provided herein by authors from around the country.

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