

# Show me the data: Research on TPR Storytelling

A handout for teachers, parents, students, and administrators

## What is TPRS?

TPRS is a language teaching method designed to develop real fluency. Students and teachers spend class time speaking in the target language about interesting, comprehensible stories.



## How does TPRS compare to traditional language teaching?

About  $\frac{3}{4}$  of studies show advantages for TPRS over traditional teaching. The other  $\frac{1}{4}$  show mixed results (TPRS students perform better in some areas, and worse in others.) No studies have found that TPRS students underperform traditional students.

## Which language skills does TPRS improve the most?

The most consistent advantages for TPRS are in developing students' **speaking** (7, 9, 11, 12), **writing** (6, 7, 11, 12, 13), **vocabulary** (4, 6, 9), and **grammar** (4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13). In all these areas, TPRS has consistently outperformed traditional teaching, and has at least equaled traditional teaching in every study.



## Summary of research results on TPR Storytelling

|                      | TPRS outperforms another teaching method | Positive results for TPRS (no comparison group) | TPRS equals another teaching method | Another teaching method outperforms TPRS |
|----------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Garczynski (2003) | ✓  |   | ✓                                   |  |
| 2. Webster (2003)    |  | ✓   |                                     |  |
| 3. Braunstein (2006) |  | ✓   |                                     |  |
| 4. Perna (2007)      | ✓  |   | ✓                                   | ✓  |
| 5. Beyer (2008)      |  | ✓   |                                     |  |
| 6. Bustamante (2009) | ✓  | ✓   |                                     |  |
| 7. Spangler (2009)   | ✓  |   | ✓                                   |  |
| 8. Varguez (2009)    | ✓  |   | ✓                                   |  |
| 9. Watson (2009)     | ✓  |   |                                     |  |
| 10. Beal (2011)      | ✓  |   | ✓                                   | ✓  |
| 11. Foster (2011)    | ✓  |   | ✓                                   | ✓  |
| 12. Dziedzic (2012)  | ✓  |   | ✓                                   |  |
| 13. Oliver (2012)    | ✓  |   |                                     |  |



## How can I learn more about research on TPRS?

For references and more information about the above studies, see page 304-311 of *Fluency Through TPR Storytelling*, Ray & Seely, 6<sup>th</sup> edition (2012) or visit [forlangs.niu.edu/~klichtman/tprs.html](http://forlangs.niu.edu/~klichtman/tprs.html). For research on the advantages of teaching with comprehensible input and free voluntary reading, visit [sdkrashen.com](http://sdkrashen.com).