MUM, CHILD, and SCHOOL
READING TOGETHER

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This particular form of practice is no longer applicable if we are to successfully cultivate the reading culture in children. Reminiscent of the old African proverb, 'It takes a village to raise a child,' there is a pressing need for all stakeholders to get involved in getting children to begin reading. Reading should be nurtured at a young age. Communities and especially parents must come together to fill in the gap for their children and help them to overcome this literacy challenge by fostering an encouraging and positive attitude towards reading, which will go a long way in their development of effective reading skills.

UNIMAS, through the team from the Faculty of Language and Communication is taking up its share of the responsibility through research which led to the production of this book. This book is a testament to UNIMAS's mission to enhance the social and economic impact on the global community, through the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research and strategic engagement. Through Research Excellence Strategic Focus 2, we also intend to create impactful research that is appropriate, accessible and affordable to the communities that we serve. My heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to the team in their noble efforts to contribute to the well-being of our community.

Mohd Fadzil Bin Abd Rahman

Acknowledgement

Foreword

"Children are made readers on the laps of their parents." - Emilie Buchwald

In the last fifty years, the world has experienced an unprecedented explosion of information made possible through the rapid rise and development of technology in the 21st century. In line with this development, reading has become one of the most essential skills in today's world. It is understandable that in this increasingly globalised and digitalised form of society, that the younger generation or more importantly, children are forced to face challenges in the forms of the need to communicate, create, and cooperate. There is no denying of the importance of these skills as they are indispensable -especially now when the traditional geographical boundaries are no longer the obstacle to communicate with the international community. However, we can no longer continue to be ignorant and oblivious when it comes to the subject of illiteracy. The benefits of reading and effective reading skills are crucial. Good readers enjoy the virtuous cycle of reading, 'the more they read, the more they understand and the more they understand, the more they read', inadvertently producing independent learners who over time become life-long learners, a hallmark of a global citizen in today's world.

Countless efforts and initiatives have been carried out by the government, organisations and even private citizens to ensure that no one is left behind in this scramble to get everyone on board the information and communication technological advancements, though there are always cases that some are unintentionally left behind. Children living in the rural areas for example are often side-lined due to limited resources and the lack of a will to get them out of their illiterate or semi-literate world. In most of these places, the norm is total reliance on schools to impart the knowledge and skills of reading.

This particular form of practice is no longer applicable if we are to successfully cultivate the reading culture in children. Reminiscent of the old African proverb, 'It takes a village to raise a child,' there is a pressing need for all stakeholders to get involved in getting children to begin reading. Reading should be nurtured at a young age. Communities and especially parents must come together to fill in the gap for their children and help them to overcome this literacy challenge by fostering an encouraging and positive attitude towards reading, which will go a long way in their development of effective reading skills.

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children. The experience gained in running the workshops, running the activities as well as cooperating with the school and community has proven to be quite beneficial for all parties involved. The roles that teachers play in teaching basic reading skills is critical especially in teaching children to use phonemic awareness in decoding what they see in the text. This project will serve as a blueprint for similar reading research and if possible, carried out at a larger scale.

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