

“What are all these dogs doing at school?” Using therapy dogs to promote children’s reading practice.

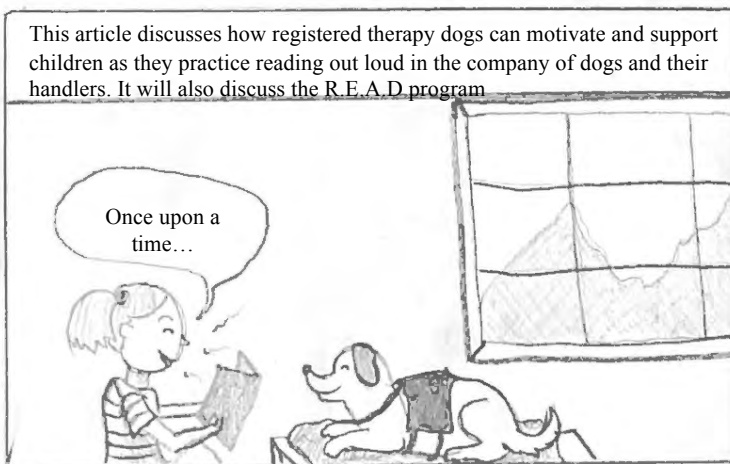
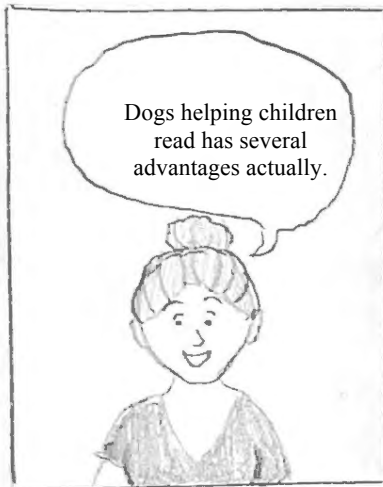
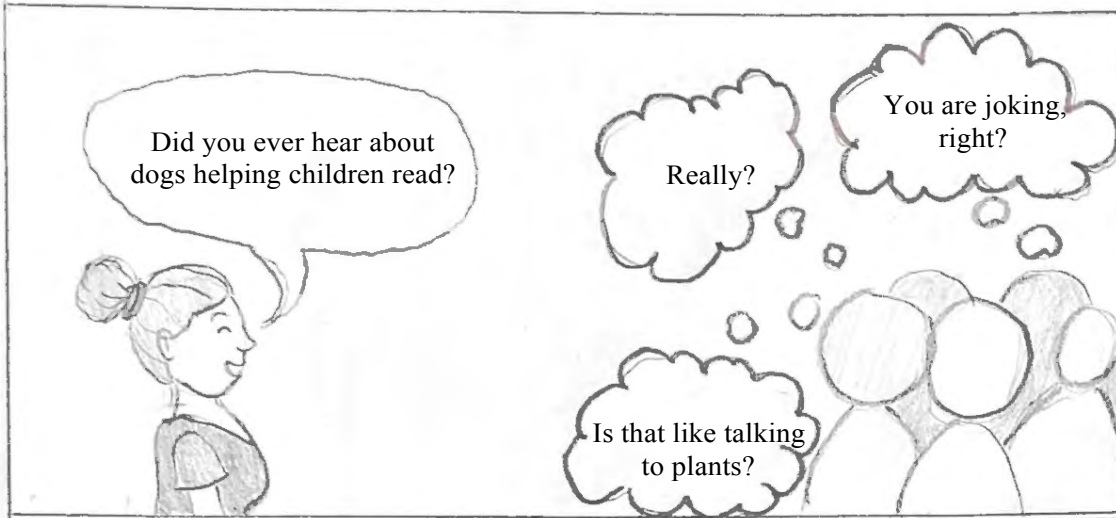


Femke Timmermans
Tilburg University
Visual Thinking and Composition, 2020

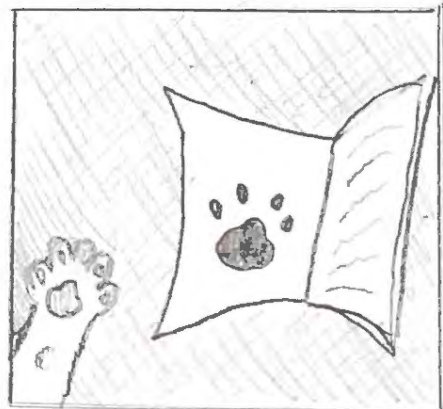
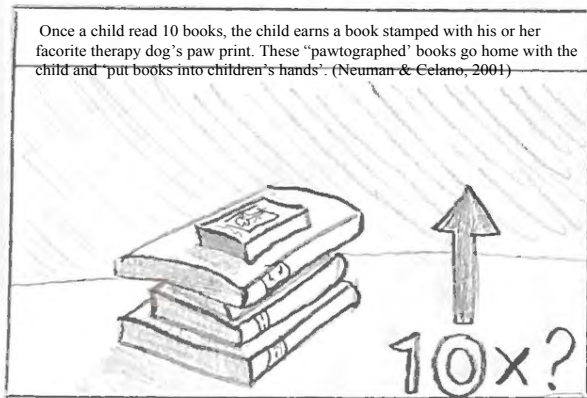
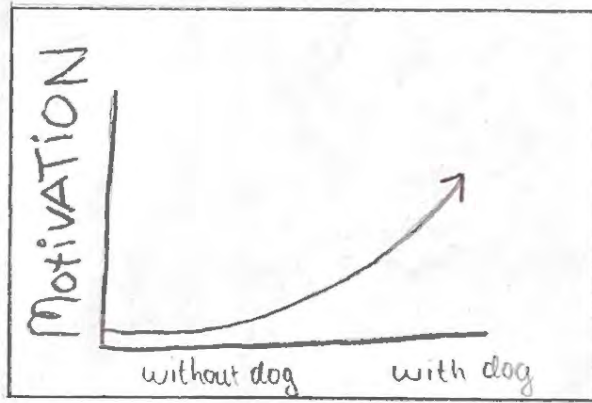
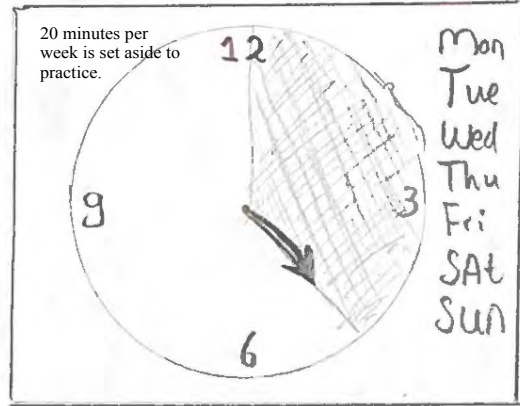
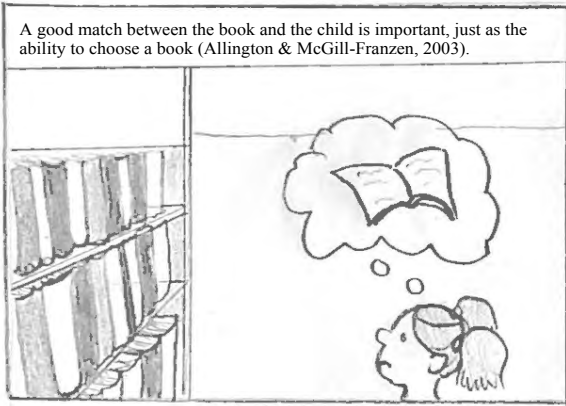
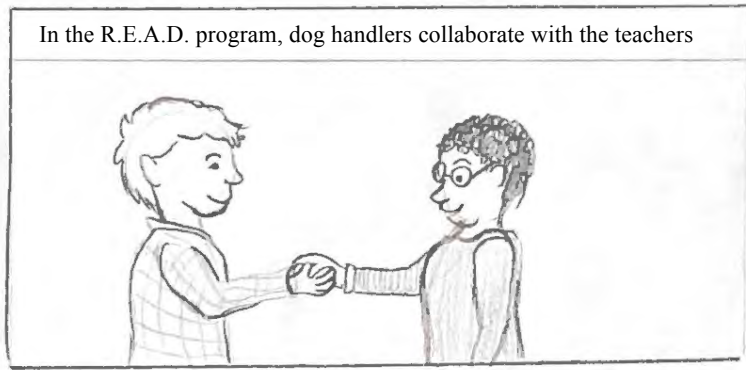
Jalongo, M. R. (2005). What are all these dogs doing at school? Using therapy dogs to promote children’s reading practice. *Childhood education, 81*(3), 152-158.

Link to Article:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00094056.2005.10522259#aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cudGFuZGZvbmxpbmUuY29tL2RvaS9wZGYvMTAuMTA4MC8wMDA5NDA1Ni4yMDA1LjEwNTIyMjU5P25lZWRY2Nlc3M9dHJlZUBAQDA=>



R eading
E ducation
A ssistance
D ogs



Research shows that the presence of a therapy dog can reduce a child's blood pressure and heart rate and can diminish observable signs of anxiety (Friedmann, Thomas, & Eddy, 2000).

Heart-rate

without dog with dog

If a child is struggling with certain words, the handler may supply the troublesome word to keep the flow going.

Do you mean table?

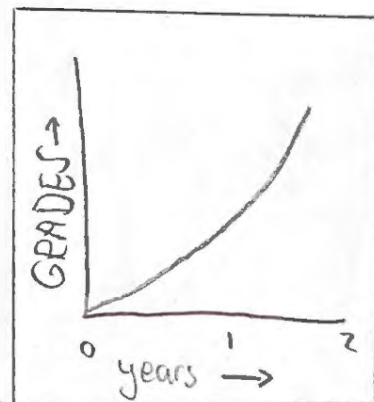
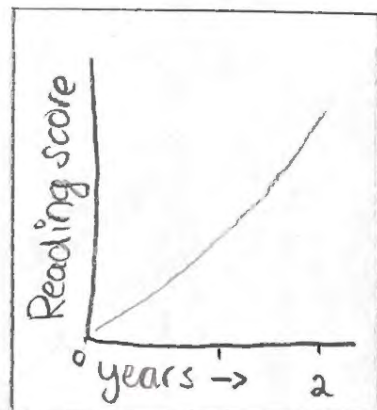
The 't' eh...

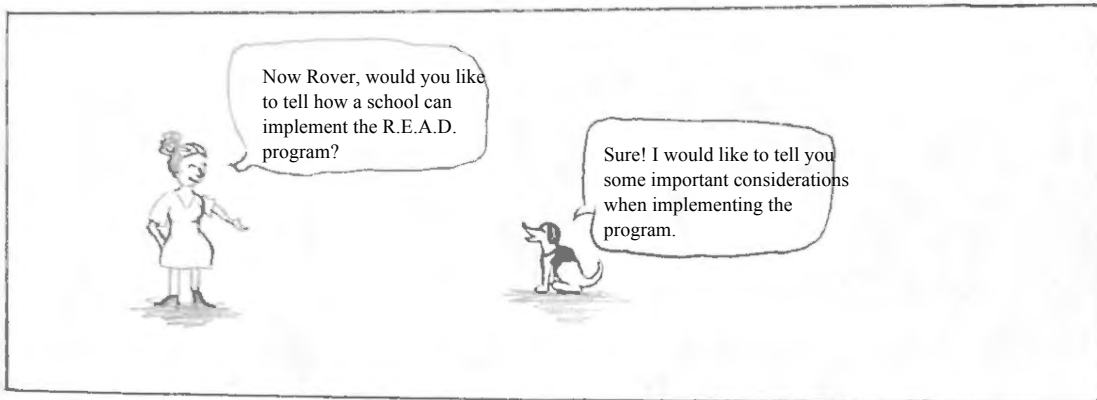
And can you now maybe explain to Rover what you just read?

A longitudinal study was conducted to see how therapy dogs may help a child's reading ability.

For 2 years

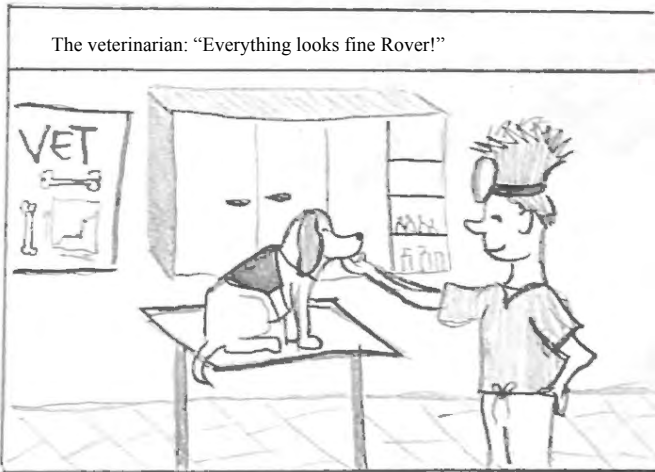
RESULTS



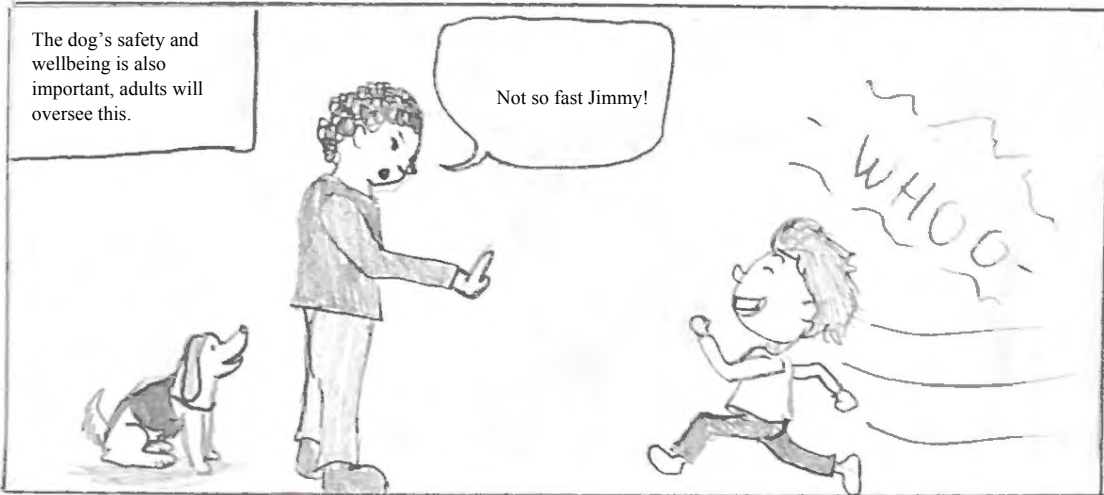
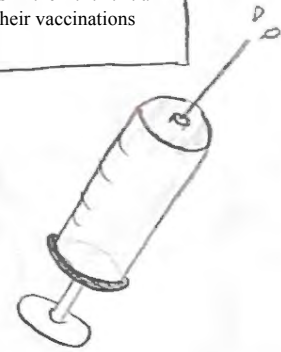




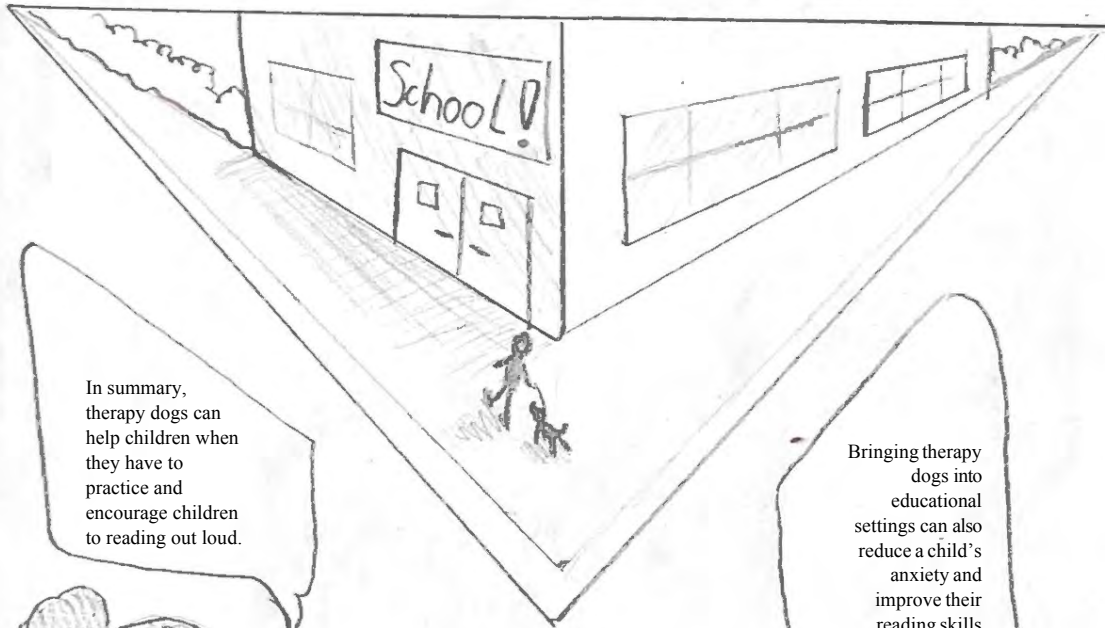
The parents also ask their children if they would like to participate in the program. To ensure everyone's safety, the therapy dogs offer go on vet check-ups and yes, also get vaccinated.



Dogs in the R.E.A.D. all get their vaccinations



CONCLUSION



In summary, therapy dogs can help children when they have to practice and encourage children to reading out loud.

Bringing therapy dogs into educational settings can also reduce a child's anxiety and improve their reading skills significantly



For future research, it is important to build a deeper understanding of reading materials.

Lastly, it is important to investigate how children learn to associate high-quality literature with high enjoyment

