



30 Years of Closed Captioning EVIDENCE BASED RESEARCH

Please review our 43 entries complete with: Subject Matter, Title, Quote and Link.

GLOBAL + US Research:

Subject: Oregon State University conducted a national survey with 3Play Media to learn more about how students with and without disabilities use and perceive closed captions in relation to their learning experiences in the college classroom.

Title: [A Rising Tide – How Closed Captions Can Benefit All Students](#)

Quote: *“Specific ways in which closed captions can aid learning include comprehension, accuracy, engagement and retention.”*

Link: [A Rising Tide - How Closed Captions Can Benefit All Students](#)

Subject: A study of 76 elementary students shows TV captioning helped beginning readers improve reading skills.

Title: [“Learning to Read from Television: The Effects of using Captions and Narration”- Linebarger 2001](#)

Quote: *“Beginning readers recognize more words when they view television that uses captions.”*

“An appropriate combination of television & print produces opportunities for enhancing literacy experiences & outcomes.”

Link: [Learning to Read from TV](#)

Subject: Subtitling of TV program in Gujarat, India shows measurable contribution to reading and writing skills.

Title: [“Reading out of the ‘Idiot Box’: Same-Language Subtitling on Television in India”- Kothari 2005](#)

Quote: *“The idea (of SLS) is especially powerful in popular culture for scriptacy (reading & writing) skill improvement, motivation of nonscriptates, increasing viewers’*

exposure and interaction with print from early childhood.”

Link: [Reading Out of the Idiot Box](#)

Subject: Controlled experiment with subtitles in Indian school shows improved reading skills.

Title: [“Same Language Subtitling for Literacy: Small Change for Colossal Gains”- Kothari/Takeda 2000](#)

Quote: *“SLS leads to reading improvement because it whets people’s interest in singing along and knowing the lyrics. The effectiveness of SLS lies in reading skill improvement being a subliminal by-product of widely popular entertainment.”*

Link: [SLS Small Change for Colossal Gains](#)

Subject: National survey of 359 special educators found most perceive value in captioned media.

Title: [“Captioned Media: Teacher Perceptions of Potential Value for Students with No Hearing Impairments” - Bove/Kaufman 2001](#)

Quote: *“A strong majority of respondents (86.1%) reported seeing potential value in captioned/subtitled media to teach students with disabilities who are not deaf.”*

Link: [Teacher Survey](#)

Subject: More than 100 empirical studies document benefits of captions, including improving children’s reading skills.

Title: [“Video Captions Benefit Everyone”- Gernsbacher 2015](#)

Quote: *“Watching videos with audio and captions leads to significantly better reading skills. Children who watch captioned videos are better able to define content words that were heard in the videos, pronounce novel words, recognize vocabulary items and draw inferences about what happened in the videos.”*

Link: [Video Captions Benefit Everyone](#)

ADDITIONAL ARTICLES:

Subject: Readings helps build kids' emotional intelligence and empathy

Title: [Research shows reading improves kids' emotional intelligence and increases empathy](#)

Quote: *“The ability to learn about diversity through reading has been studied extensively, as researchers try to tap into what lifelong readers know as the magic of reading.”*

According to an article in the Scientific American, researchers at the New School in New York City “found evidence that literary fiction improves a reader’s capacity to understand what others are thinking and feeling.” The article further argues that literary fiction can

“support and teach us values about social behavior, such as the importance of understanding those who are different from ourselves.”

Link: [Reading can link diversity and empathy in kids' emotional growth.](#)

Subject: Article in Salon discusses the multiple ways closed captioning is helpful, including improved reading skills.

Title: [Why your brain loves closed captioning](#)

Quote: *“Turning on the captions and integrating text with speech can....likewise be helpful for children and adults to promote reading skills, making it an important tool to meet the current moment.”*

Link: [Why Your Brain Loves Closed Captioning](#)

Subject: Former Education Secretary Greening suggests use of TV subtitles as a practical solution to improve their children’s prospects.

Title: [“Exclusive: ‘TV subtitles boost literacy’ – Greening” - Hazell 2018](#)

Quote: *“If we could just get parents having subtitles on the TV as a matter of course for a child’s early years. If you’re not a great reader yourself, as a parent, that’s one thing you can do, to help children listen and learn words.”*

Link: [TV Subtitles Boost Literacy](#)

Subject: Article focuses on captioning offering advantages for increased literacy for almost 100% of students in grades K-12 and college.

Title: [“Captioning and Subtitling Benefit All Students for Increased Literacy”- Mayes 2018](#)

Quote: *“Ninety-seven percent of schools and homes in the United States have televisions and computers. Therefore, a simple solution to increasing printed word exposure would be to turn on the CC1 setting on televisions and filter educational YouTube videos for accurate subtitles.”*

Link: [Captioning Benefits All Students](#)

Subject: Article on key research identifying the link between captions and literacy.

Title: [“Captions in the Classroom: A Hidden Literacy Tool” - McGrath 2013](#)

Quote: *“It was found that the students who viewed the video content with captions were better able to learn new words and phrases than those who watched the same content without captions.”*

Link: [Captions in the Classroom](#)

Subject: “The Read-Aloud Handbook” discusses captioning as an effective reading tutor.

Title: [“What About the Mechanical Reading Tutor You Mentioned Earlier?”- Trelease 2006](#)

Quote: *“The chances of a word (or sentence) being retained in our memory bank are thirty times greater if we see it instead of just hear it.” “Closed captioning is basically a government program that puts the equivalent of a daily newspaper or weekly magazine in the home – for free.”*

Link: [Mechanical Reading Tutor](#)

Subject: Study finds correlation between subtitles and comprehension, providing evidence they are helpful in reading instruction & language learning.

Title: [“Subtitles and Eye Tracking: Reading and Performance” - Kruger 2013](#)

Quote: *“Subtitled audiovisual material may still add significant value to education because of the high correlation between subtitle reading and performance.”*

Link: [Subtitles and Eye Tracking](#)

Subject: Online commentary discusses why listening to English & reading English subtitles helps in decoding words and reading better.

Title: [“Closed Captioning Gives Literacy a Boost”- Myerov 2015](#)

Quote: *“Same-language subtitling can actually support literacy.” “For students struggling with reading, or learning English as a second language, subtitling can help.”*

Link: [CC Gives Literacy a Boost](#)

Subject: Paper discusses a controlled experiment to measure the impact of SLS on the reading skills of disadvantaged school children.

Title: [“Same language subtitling: a butterfly for literacy” - Kothari/Takeda/Joshi/Pandey 2002](#)

Quote: *“The results confirm that SLS of film songs leads to reading skill improvement, thus reaffirming the enormous potential of this simple and economical approach for mass literacy skill development in India.”*

Link: [Butterfly for Literacy](#)

Subject: Transcript from podcast encouraging the use of subtitles to improve literacy rate.

Title: [“Let’s Use Subtitles to Improve Children’s Literacy Rate with Henry Warren from ‘Turn on the Subtitles’” - Khalifa 2019](#)

Quote: *“Evidence seems to suggest that the best impact for subtitles is the age group between about 6 and 10. So, this is when children are really looking to improve their fluency, their speed, their comprehension, their vocabulary, and that’s when it really, really kicks in.”*

Link: [Podcast](#)

Subject: Post on Common Sense Education’ site explains how podcasts improve literacy, especially when subtitles are used.

Title: [“How podcasts can improve literacy” - Godsey 2018](#)

Quote: *“I now have a classroom full of students like Melissa, who says “I like to listen to [a] story better, but I have to be able to read it at the same time.” The kids are now asking for these successful reading events with enthusiasm.”*

Link: [Podcasts Can Improve Literacy](#)

Subject: Article explains why Finland finished first in the world for literate children.

Title: [“Suutarila Journal; Educators Flocking to Finland, Land of Literate Children” - Alvarez 2004](#)

Quote: *“Children grow up watching television shows and movies (made in English) with subtitles. So they read while they watch TV.”*

Link: [Finland](#)

Subject: Article lists importance & benefits of closed captions and tips to improve literacy by using them.

Title: [“Improve Literacy Using Captions and Subtitles” - Flynn 2015](#)

Quote: *“Adding closed captions to video course materials improves test scores and academic performance for all students.” “But even more fundamental is the ability to improve literacy using captions and subtitles.”*

Link: [Improve Literacy Using CC & Subtitles](#)

EDUCATOR Research:

Subject: Paper discusses captioned television as a powerful motivator for teaching reading **comprehension** to students in grades 5-12, remedial programs, special education, English learners and adults with below average reading skills.

Title: [“Using Captioned TV for Teaching Reading Fastback 359”- Goldman 1993](#)

Quote: *“Captioned television can be used to address a variety of skills:*

- *Basic reading skills, including study of sight vocabulary, base words,*
- *Reading **comprehension** skills...*
- *Grammar and syntax practice...*
- *Writing skills...”*

Link: [Using CC TV for Teaching Reading](#)

Subject: Research shows captions on TV can be used to enhance the vocabulary & **comprehension** skills of young readers.

Title: [“Captioned Video and Vocabulary Learning: An Innovative Practice in Literacy](#)

[Instruction”- Koskinen et al 1993](#)

Quote: *“Of the many uses of captioned video in the development of literacy skills, vocabulary learning appears to be one of the most valuable.” “The combination of the video action with spoken dialogue and printed words is a powerful tool in learning to read.”*

Link: [Captioned Video and Vocabulary Learning](#)

Subject: Significant gains in **comprehension** & vocabulary result from study of low-literacy achievement students who watched captioned movies with interactive activities.

Title: [“Raising adolescent reading achievement: the use of subtitled popular movies & high interest literacy activities”- Davey/Parkhill](#)

Quote: *“We suggest that using other media (in this case, film with subtitles) for low literacy students may well offer a potential and attractive addition to an emphasis on print media, particularly in a world where non-print media will likely continue to be the most meaningful, most engaging and most commonly accessed texts in the literacy lives of millennial generation adolescents .”*

Link: [Raising Adolescent Reading Achievement](#)

Subject: Study of economically disadvantaged children showed captions helped them recognize & read more words & identify the meaning of those words.

Title: [“On-screen print: the role of captions as a supplemental literacy tool” – Linebarger/Piotrowski 2010](#)

Quote: *“Early readers can learn to read and gain a clearer understanding of new words while viewing existing children’s educational programming with print on screen.”
“Television captioning increases attention to and subsequent **comprehension** of television content.”*

Link: [Role of Captions as Supplemental Literacy Tool](#)

Subject: Summary of research proving subtitling improves reading literacy.

Title: [“Evidence for the impact of Same Language Subtitles \(SLS\) on reading literacy” - turnonthesubtitles.org](#)

Quote: *“In a longitudinal study of continuous caption use in the home, children who viewed with captions scored significantly higher on normative tests of word identification and passage **comprehension** when compared with non-caption viewers.”*

Link: [Impact of SLS on Literacy](#)

Subject: Study of a technological approach to reading **comprehension**/retention skills in “at risk” elementary students.

Title: [“Closed Caption Prompt Rates: Their Influence on Reading Outcomes”- Meyer & Lee 1995](#)

Quote: *“Results suggest that educators can better help reading deficient students by*

choosing captioned video curriculum rather than traditional print materials.”

Link: [Closed Caption Prompt Rates](#)

Subject: A study investigated the effect of video and narrative presentations on children’s **comprehension** and vocabulary acquisition.

Title: “[Comparison of Video and Text Narrative Presentations on Comprehension and Vocabulary Acquisition](#)”- Podszabka, Conklin, Apple, Windus 1998

Quote: “*Television and video watching appear to have a positive effect on **comprehension**. Vocabulary acquisition also seems to be positively affected when coupled with text. Closed captioning is a positive addition to teaching reading through television and video. Closed Captioning. is useful for regular education, special education, other language learners, and adult learners.*”

Link: [Comprehension & Vocabulary Acquisition](#)

Subject: Two experiments examined the effect of single-modality (sound or text) and bimodal (sound and text) presentation on word learning.

Title: “[The effect of bimodal input on implicit and explicit memory: An investigation into the benefits of within-language subtitling](#)”- Bird, Williams 2002

Quote: “*The present results suggest that **phonological** information derived from both text and sound contributes to improvements in the processing of spoken words. Materials that encourage a more integrated visual and auditory learning context, such as same language subtitling, might be attractive alternatives to traditional listening materials.*”

Link: [Effect of Bimodal Input on Word Learning](#)

Subject: Paper analyzes studies to examine what benefits an educator can expect students to derive from closed captioning and computer-assisted reading **comprehension** products.

Title: “[Technical Advances and Fifth Grade Reading Comprehension: Do Students Benefit?](#) - Fountaine 2000

Quote: “*The results were significant, indicating closed captioned curriculum has potential to elevate **comprehension**. As an aside, it was even noted that most televisions today contain closed captioned capability and that parents could help the students by enabling it in the home.*”

Link: [Tech Advances & 5th Grade Reading Comprehension](#)

Subject: Study sponsored by the Department of Education to determine if technological enhancements to captioning would benefit the general population of students and learning-disabled children.

Title: “[The Effectiveness of Television Captioning on Comprehension and Preference.](#)”- Kirkland 1995

Quote: “*There was a significant **comprehension** benefit over time when the videos*

were captioned. Also, captioning withdrawal resulted in significantly lower comprehension for all students; when captions were re-introduced, there was a rebound in comprehension.

Link: [Effectiveness of CC TV on Comprehension](#)

CLASSROOM Research:

Subject: Study of efficacy of subtitles on listening **comprehension** of English as a Foreign Language students.

Title: “The effect of films with and without subtitles on listening comprehension of EFL learners”- Hayti, Mohmedi 2011

Quote: “Rather than being a distraction, the double modal input appears to enhance **comprehension** better than simply processing subtitles through silent reading.”

Link: [Effect of Subtitles for EFL Students](#)

Subject: Researcher discusses captioning as a resource for learning English as a Second Language.

Title: “A Very Verbal Medium: Language Learning Through Closed Captions”- Vanderplank 1993

Quote: “My own studies have shown that learner’s benefit in terms of listening **comprehension**, comprehensible input, vocabulary acquisition and reading skills.”

Link: [Language Learning Through CC](#)

Subject: Study of learning-disabled students in Hawaii showed SLS-taught group scored significantly higher in reading **comprehension**.

Title: “WWC Review of the Report ‘Same-Language-Subtitling (SLS): Using Subtitled Music Video for Reading Growth”- US Dept. of Education-McCall/Craig 2009

Quote: “WWC calculations indicate that students in the SLS interventions condition scored significantly higher than students in the comparison condition on the reading comprehension achievement posttests.”

Link: [Using Subtitled Video for Reading Growth](#)

Subject: Research study on the effects of closed captioning for improving **comprehension** of video clips by intellectually disabled students.

Title: “Lights! Camera! Captions!: The Effects of Picture and/or Word Captioning Adaptations, Alternative Narration, and Interactive Features on Video Comprehension by Students with Intellectual Disabilities” - Evmenova 2008

Quote: “One of the most commonly used strategies for improving comprehension and retention of video content is closed captioning.” “Closed captioning was also determined to be an effective and, in most cases, unobtrusive strategy for teaching reading to students at risk and/or with learning disabilities.”

Link: [Effect of CC for Intellectually Disabled](#)

Subject: Research study of deaf and hearing children assesses **comprehension** of television programs with and without captions.

Title: “Television Captioning: A Vehicle for Accessibility and Literacy”- Lewis 1999

Quote: “Both deaf and hearing students scores’ on the **comprehension** test were better for the captioned video than the written transcript version of the video. Therefore, television should not be dismissed as an educational technology.”

Link: [Vehicle for Accessibility & Literacy](#)

EDUCATOR Research:

Subject: Former teacher/reading specialist/principal discusses closed captioning as a method that works with slow or reluctant readers.

Title: “Supporting Super Students: Closed captioning for reluctant readers.”- Mroz 2020

Quote: “Foundational reading skills, such as **phonics**, word recognition and **fluency** are enhanced for beginning readers when closed captioning is turned on”. “Reading skills to be developed through C.C. are reading speed and **fluency**, word recognition & knowledge, decoding, vocabulary, reading **comprehension** & rate/expression of oral reading”

Link: [CC for Reluctant Readers](#)

Subject: National Captioning Institute reviews the reading skills benefit of using closed captions

Title: “The Educational Value of Reading Captions”- National Captioning Institute 2020

Quote: “NCI study showed that hearing youngsters who watched captioned TV were able to significantly improve their vocabulary and oral reading **fluency**”

Link: [Educational Value of Reading Captions](#)

Subject: Cielo 24 lists 10 great reasons why closed captioned educational video is necessary.

Title: “10 Reasons Why Closed Captioning for Education Is a Must.”- Flynn 2017

Quote: “Reading **comprehension** scores from students increased dramatically when captioned educational video was used compared to uncaptioned educational video.”

Link: [10 Reasons](#)

Subject: PowerUp What Works article reviews how and why captions can provide struggling readers with additional print exposure, improving foundational reading skills.

Title: [“Captioning to Support Literacy”- Brann - PowerUp What Works 2011](#)

Quote: *“One motivating, engaging, and inexpensive way to help build the foundational reading skills of students is through the use of closed-captioned & subtitled TV show and movies. These supports can help boost foundational reading skills such as **phonics**, word recognition, and **fluency**”*

Link: [Captioning to Support Literacy](#)

Subject: San Francisco State University professor shows improvement in students’ **comprehension** and test scores because of using captions.

Title: [“Video captions improve comprehension, professor finds ”- SF State News 2013](#)

Quote: *“Robert Keith Collins found that students’ test scores and **comprehension** improved dramatically when captions were used while watching videos. Collins says his results show captions can be beneficial to all students”.*

Link: [Video Captions Improve Comprehension](#)

Subject: Article highlights a Nielsen study and a National Institute of Health study which shows benefits of C.C. include better learning **comprehension**.

Title: [“5 Reasons Why Captions and Subtitles are Awesome - Shih 2019](#)

Quote: *“Former President Bill Clinton stated that in a Nielsen study, same language subtitling doubles the number of functional readers in primary school”.*

Link: [5 Reasons](#)

Subject: Report discusses how closed captions can improve literacy in the classroom and in the home.

Title: [“Using Captions to Support Literacy”- Video Caption Corporation 2020](#)

Quote: *“For those who are just learning to read, closed captioning can introduce basic reading skills. Phonics, spelling, reading **comprehension**, **fluency**, and decoding skills are important factors that contribute to literacy as a whole.”*

Link: [Using Captions to Support Literacy](#)

Subject: eSchool News article reviews closed captioning and other edtech choices that are accessible for students’ diverse needs.

Title: [“3 steps to a more accessible classroom” - Olague 2018](#)

Quote: *“All my students were learning how to read, and the captions helped them connect the audio to the visual representation of text. I used C.C. with BrainPop Jr. content, ClassDojo videos, GoNoodle and other **phonics** videos”*

Link: [3 Steps](#)

Subject: Blog reviews a closed captioning experiment with Memphis, Tennessee students.

Title: [“The Hidden Reading Tutor”- Hawthorne 2017](#)

Quote: *“Hearing the word as it is said and then seeing the action, to me, that sounds like free Hooked on **Phonics!**” Whether for children just learning to read, adults struggling with illiteracy, or people that are learning English as a new language, closed captioning continues to be a beneficial resource.”*

Link: [Hidden Reading Tutor](#)

Subject: Column provides overview on how watching television can increase literacy skills.

Title: [“Can Closed Captioning Improve Literacy?” - CMI 2020](#)

Quote: *“Improved skills include: reading speed and **fluency**, word knowledge, decoding, vocabulary acquisition, word recognition, reading **comprehension** and oral reading rates”*

Link: [CC Improves Literacy](#)

Subject: Education and youth article reviews statistics and challenges readers to turn on the captions to see how they can improve kids’ reading skills.

Title: [“Using television for literacy skills” - OSI Baltimore 2020](#)

Quote: *“Parents, teachers, and caregivers, given that most children are watching TV every day, why not turn on the captioning and let them ‘see’ the words as they hear them?”*

Link: [TV for Literacy Skills](#)

Subject: Zane Education reviews the research that confirms the link between the use of subtitles & improvement in children’s literacy skills.

Title: [“Using Video Subtitles to Improve Reading and Literacy Skills” - Zane Education 2020](#)

Quote: *“Extensive research has been completed over the last 30 years that clearly demonstrates the link between the use of subtitles, or closed captioning, and the improvement in reading and literacy skills”*

Link: [Using Video Subtitles](#)

CLOSED CAPTION ADVOCACY ASSOCIATIONS

- Captions for Literacy : www.captionsforliteracy.org

- Planet Read
www.planetread.org
- Collaborative for Communication Access via Captioning (CCAC)
www.CCACaptioning.com
- Turn on the Subtitles
www.turnonthesubtitles.org
- Read Captions Across America
www.readcaptionsacrossamerica.org
- CAP THAT! (Australia)
www.mediaaccess.org.au/cap-that-1
- National Captioning Institute
www.ncicap.org
- Reading Rockets
www.readingrockets.org