

# The Role of School Library Support Centers in Enhancing Students' Collaboration Skills through Group Reading

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## Abstract

*The purpose of this poster presentation is to clarify the effect of the desirable relationship among classroom teachers, school librarians, and city librarians in Niigata City, Japan. When classroom teachers in Japan plan to introduce effective reading strategies using books and novels, they usually rely on the books in their school libraries. In order to provide enough materials and resources for elementary and secondary school classrooms, the Niigata City Library has the Niigata City School Library Support Centers. Niigata City Board of Education settled on "The Vision of Education in Niigata City" in 2005 and "Action Plan for the Promotion of Children's Reading Activities in Niigata City" in 2010, which include the establishment of the Niigata City School Library Support Centers. There are currently four School Library Support Centers in Niigata City. The author of the presentation provides classroom teachers and school librarians with opportunities for professional development in order to enhance students' collaboration skills through group reading activities, such as Literature Circles and La Animacion a la Lectura. Literature Circles is a fabulous reading activity in the U.S., developed by Harvey Daniels. La Animacion a la Lectura is a teaching method on reading in Spain, developed by Montserrat Sarto. Both activities use group discussion with inter-personal skills in order to share their reading. When a school teacher needs many books for group reading activities in his/her classroom, the Niigata City School Library Support Center gathers books which the teacher needs from all branches of Niigata City Library, and provides him/her with enough books and resources. In this presentation, the presenter will describe the effects of activities of Niigata City School Library Support Centers for incorporating La Animacion a la Lectura and Literature Circles into elementary and secondary schools in order to enhance students' collaboration skills.*

**Keywords:** Literacy, La Animacion a la Lectura, literature circles, children's literatures, professional development

## Biographical note

Ms. **Sachiko Adachi** is an Associate Professor of Language Arts Education in Faculty of Education at Niigata University, Japan. She was a visiting scholar of University of Illinois at Chicago in 2003-2004. Her research interests include reading assessment, literacy education, and collaboration between school librarians and school teachers. She provides professional development opportunities for classroom teachers and school librarians in Niigata City and neighboring areas. She also serves as an instructor of some professional development seminars sponsored by Japan School Library Association. Her one of recent publications is "Development of a reading instructional method Partner Reading for junior high school students which used two persons" in Bulletin of the Faculty of Education at Niigata University, Volume 4(2), 2012. She received the Young Researcher Award,

administered by Japan Reading Association in 1998. She serves as a board member of Japan Reading Association. She is a member of International Reading Association, Literacy Research Association, Japan Reading Association, Japanese Teaching Society of Japan, and Japanese Cognitive Science Society.