THE EFFECTIVENESS OF REINFORCEMENT
AND PRACTICE FOR ENHANCING THE CREATIVE
WRITING OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN¹

JOHN A. GLOVER²

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

Reinforcement (team points) and practice were applied to the written work of 16 fifth graders on three operationally defined components of creative writing, fluency, flexibility, and originality.³ These three components were assessed *via* five response measures. Fluency was defined as the number of different ideas each student listed in an idea list prepared prior to writing an essay. Flexibility was measured in two ways, idea list flexibility and story flexibility. Idea list flexibility was defined as the number of different kinds of ideas which appeared in each day's list whereas story flexibility was defined as the number of different approaches to the topic that the child used in the story itself. Originality was also measured in two ways, idea list originality and story originality. Idea list originality was defined by the statistical infrequency of ideas in the children's lists of ideas. Story originality was determined by blind, subjective ratings of stories conducted by independent raters. All of the measures of creative responding were demonstrated to be under experimental control. The procedures also raised students' scores on Torrance's *Tests of Thinking Creatively With Words* on three variables, fluency, flexibility, and originality. Adoption for classroom use seems straightforward.

DESCRIPTORS: creativity, writing, classroom management, teaching methods

¹See NAPS document no. 03444 for 18 pages of supplementary material. Order from ASIS/NAPS c/o Microfiche Publications, P.O. Box 3513, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10017. Remit in advance for each NAPS accession number. Institutions and organizations may use purchase orders when ordering, however, there is a billing charge for this service. Make checks payable to Microfiche Publications. Photocopies are \$5.00. Microfiche are \$3.00 each. Outside the United States and Canada, postage is \$3.00 for a photocopy or \$1.00 for a fiche. The author is grateful to Joyce Williams for her astoundingly amplitudinous and eutaxical efforts in preparing this manuscript. Jerry Boyce's efforts, after much haggling with superiors, are also greatly appreciated.

²The Department of Educational Psychology and Measurements, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska 68588.

³At no time during the study did either team actually "lose." Parental permission was obtained from each set of parents. Summaries of the results have been distributed to parents.

Received 14 March 1978.

(Final Acceptance 16 March 1979.)