

Individual or Paired Interview ABRA Research Questions (2008 – 2009)

NB These questions are meant as a guide and not a strict protocol to be followed. All questions are important as they shed light on the information sought. Interview should take 90 minutes, maximum.

Goals: To learn about:

The teacher's attitude to the teaching profession, in general, and teaching English Language Arts (ELA) in particular;

The effectiveness of the teacher's zone;

The support provided by the CSLP and others when using ABRA.

1. Tell me about your career path to teaching.

How long have you been teaching? What grades have you taught?

2. Tell me about your school.

What are the demographics, climate, resources, etc...

3. How do you understand your role as a teacher?

4. What are the 3 most important skills/values you would want your students to take from you?

5. Describe your teacher training at college/university in terms of ELA teaching development.

6. Describe the content and qualities of a great ELA classroom?

7. How comfortable are you with teaching ELA?

8. How comfortable are you teaching children how to read?

What are your beliefs about teaching children how to read?

What about struggling readers?

What do you consider to be the most fundamental features of teaching reading to youngsters?

9. How comfortable are you with using computers and other forms of technology?

10. How did you come to hear about/use ABRA?

- 11. Could you sum up your experience with ABRA in a few words?
How many times per week? Were there often interruptions that stopped ABRA use?
What did you like about ABRA? What did you not like about ABRA?
Now that the research is over, do you continue to use ABRA? Why/not?**
- 12. What kinds of support did you receive while using ABRA (school level – IT, administration, colleagues, etc)?**
- 13. Describe the support given by the RAs and CSLP?
Was this meaningful?
How can this be improved?**
- 14. How did you experience the support given in the software?
Student zone – Instruction Module (frequency and sequence of pedagogical, auditory and visual support - How can we make this better?)
Teacher zone – Professional Development Module**
- 15. What are some of the benefits/drawbacks of using the Teacher’s Zone? (How can we make this better?)**
- 16. What kinds of support do you still need in the Teacher’s Zone?**
- 17. I’ve noted your earlier response with using technology. Now that you have used ABRA in your classroom, describe how this has affected your comfort level.**
- 18. What value does ABRA add to your teaching?
What must we do to keep you using ABRA?
What must we do to make ABRA a more meaningful tool for you?**

Thanks for your participation in this interview!