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# Sunderland Echo

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# Kids' reading age same as in 1950s

Half a billion pounds spent on raising standards in primary schools has had "almost no impact" on children's reading skills, Professor Peter Tymms, of Durham University, claimed today.

The Primary Review, which included reports from Durham University, also said the drive to improve literacy levels has left pupils feeling stressed about tests and losing their love of books.

Researchers warned that despite massive Government funding, reading standards had barely improved since the 1950s.

Published on the

**02**

November

2007

09:29

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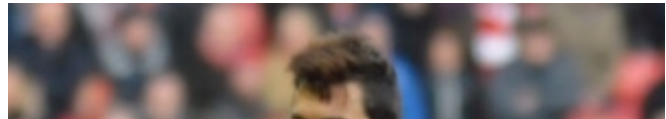
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The study said the apparently dramatic rise in primary school test results in the last decade vastly overstated the true scale of improvements.

It claimed the curriculum was being narrowed as teachers concentrated on preparing pupils for tests.

Academics called for a major overhaul of the primary school testing regime and warned the system could be giving children the wrong grades.

Schools minister Andrew Adonis defended the Government's education record.

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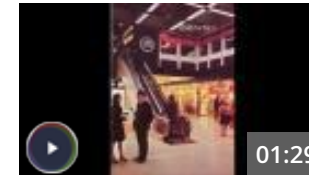
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Jessica Simpson Lets It All Hang Out in Shocking Bachelorette Party Dress (PHOTO) (Stirring Daily)



MLB trade rumors: Why David Price makes so much sense for the Cardinals  
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01:21

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