



Engaging Reluctant Readers



- Resist the temptation to compare a child's reading development and progress with others of the same age. Reading is not a race; becoming a good reader might be one of the milestones along the way but different children will get there in different ways and at different speeds. Some children excel early on and then slow down while others may experience slow starts and struggle to begin before gaining confidence and speeding up.
- 'Switch' children on to reading by using their interests and hobbies. Some children may initially be reluctant readers and may not seem interested in reading. When they do pick up a book however, they can read well; it is just that they do not want to. These reluctant yet capable readers must be encouraged to read stories which will appeal to their interests. They need to be shown that reading can be fun and can be associated with something that excites them. The trick is to 'switch' them on to reading by using their interests.
- Be aware that struggling readers will, more often than not, have problems in multiple areas. Children who have problems with phonemic awareness will almost always have problems with word decoding and phonics. Children with fluency problems usually display weaknesses in comprehension. An underdeveloped vocabulary will impact comprehension as well.
- Act promptly if you suspect a child has a reading difficulty. Parents in particular play an important role in ensuring their child's needs are being addressed by the school. It is never too late to help a child with a reading problem.





Helping Struggling Readers

- Provide children with books they actually want to read
- Choose books which have sufficiently challenging text but are also engaging enough to keep them interested
- Provide a wide variety of choice to increase the quantity and quality of reading taking place
- Choose 'high interest/low vocabulary' books and build on this foundation gradually
- Encourage children to engage with a wide variety of media such as newspapers, magazines, comic books and graphic novels
- Help them to break away from coping strategies and focus on improving their reading skills.