

How to motivate the reluctant reader

For all students

Inspire a lifelong love of reading

Do you have trouble getting your child to read? You're not alone. Whether he is bored reading, or struggling with books, introducing the right type of material may be able to inspire a lifelong love of reading.

Show your child how much you love reading

Reading with your child is a great way to show how much you like books and value reading. It's also a great opportunity to show your child how much fun reading can be.

Choose the right reading material

Another way to motivate your child to read is to choose books that interest her and suit her skills. Your child may lose interest in books as she grows. Consider what your child likes to read and what interests her. Be enthusiastic about books that suit her interests even if they are not what you would have chosen. If she likes what it is about, there is a better chance that she will read it. These books may re-ignite her love of reading.

Prepare your child to read

Here are some strategies to help your child get ready to read:

- Discuss the title, cover and the back of the book. Guess what will happen.

- Flip through the book and look at pictures to help make further predictions.
- Set a purpose for reading before he begins.

Talk about what you're reading

Talking about what you're reading will help your child develop and extend her comprehension of the material.

- Have your child retell what he's heard/read.
- Ask...
 - What does the book remind you of?
 - What do you know about this?
 - I wonder questions, e.g. I wonder what will happen if...
 - Who does the main character remind you of?
- Make and confirm predictions.
- Stop periodically to describe pictures you're visualizing as you read the story.
- Discuss what's important and what detail you find interesting.

Here are a few books that may help inspire a love of reading:

- The "Frances" Books by Russell Hoban
- *How to Beat Captain Najork and his Hired Sportsmen* by Russell Hoban
- *Winnie the Pooh* by A. A. Milne
- The Early "Babar" Books
- The "Just So" Stories and "Jungle Books" by Rudyard Kipling
- *Paper Bag Princess* by Robert Munsch
- Nursery Rhymes

- Brothers Grimm
- Aesop's Fables
- Books by Hans Christian Andersen
- *Animalia* by Graeme Base
- *Yertle the Turtle* by Dr. Seuss
- *Dirty Dog Boogie* by Loris Lesynski