

Tips for Motivating Reluctant Readers

1. Establish a supportive relationship with each reader. Discover something unique about each one and celebrate it often. Demonstrate a personal interest in each child's personal life.
2. Create learning situations and activities that interest the students and make learning challenging AND purposeful.
3. Structure classroom environments that ensure success. Be clear about your expectations and set appropriate behavior boundaries and expectations.
4. Eliminate fear of failure. Teach students that failure is often an important tool for assessing how to do things better.
5. Value effort. Young children view effort and ability as the same thing; so praise generously and specifically when students move forward in large and small ways.
6. Introduce tasks and text as interesting and challenging; be specific in the "how to" part of each explanation and demonstration. Your enthusiasm for the tasks and texts entice children to move forward.
7. Expect students to succeed. Children's perceptions of how smart they are come solely from the adults around them: parents, caregivers, teachers. Your attitude and belief system colors all that students do.
8. Teach for a lifetime. Think past the stickers, prizes, and certificates. Show each child how they are smart, and direct them to moving past their own expectations daily. A "can do" attitude is the greatest gift a teacher can give; it will last a lifetime.

Thanks to Carol Lyons: *Teaching Struggling Readers*