

Reluctant readers

Have you tried this reading strategy for reluctant readers?



Who is it for?

Students who need support and encouragement in learning to read.

How long does it take?

About ten minutes daily, depending on the student's interest and attention span.

What is needed?

- A book the student is interested in and that is not too difficult to read.
- An encouraging, interested, enthusiastic tutor, who enjoys books.

Why do it?

The strategy:

- models good reading
- practises listening skills
- boosts confidence
- ensures some success
- encourages reluctant readers.

How is it done?

1. To stimulate interest in the book selected, the tutor and student look at it, discuss the characters and predict what may happen.
2. The tutor reads a short text to the student; e.g. a short page or paragraph.
3. As the tutor reads the text, the student follows, using a finger to point to the words
4. Student and tutor read the same text together.
5. The student re-reads the text on his/her own.
6. Continue while the student is interested and is reading successfully.

STOP



- if the student has difficulty reading the text alone, because the book is too difficult and should be replaced with an easier one,
- the tutor and student are not enjoying the process. Remember, the aim is to encourage student interest, understanding and enjoyment of reading.

About the tutors

- Tutors need to understand the purpose of this strategy.
- Students will learn to read using this strategy. The tutor's task is to foster interest, enthusiasm, enjoyment and to have fun!
- Tutors could be teachers, teaching assistants, parents, grandparents, older students, or carefully selected peers.
- If the student reads a word incorrectly the tutor can:
 - do nothing if it makes sense,
 - allow time for self-correction,
 - suggest the student read the sentence again and try to identify the word using the initial letter as a cue,
 - read the word for the student and get on with the story,
 - suggest the reader apply phonic analysis if it is a simple word.

This page may be photocopied for tutor reference.