HELPING STRUGGLING READERS

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Do you have a struggling reader among your class? Perhaps there are. Helping struggling readers seems to be a big task. It’s really not a joke to teach them how to read the way they are expected to read.

Reading fluency is an ability to read with ease, accuracy and expression. There must be a fast connection between word recognition and comprehension. Many teachers see that the best way to help learners to become fluent is to read silently for several minutes a day. Unfortunately, there is an arising problem. Silent reading has not been proved in helping to build fluency in struggling readers. If a child is not fully developed in reading, is it fair to ask him or her to silently struggle through a passage? How will that help him or her improve?

First thing to consider is to diagnose the strength and weakness of the child. It will give you hint about where to begin the instruction. Have time to find the confusion. These struggling readers might have to miss the key elements which are the phonological and phonemic awareness. If that so, there might be a problem in their phonics skills. Do not skip ahead. Start to teach them from the point where struggling readers should start on. Reading, phonics and spelling are all important skills. If one of these skills is missing, there is a chance to build up the feeling of frustration.

Most struggling readers, especially the older ones, know that they struggle in reading. They usually feel frustrated that comes out to a statement “I hate reading.” To prevent this scenario, give them books that are just right and start to work out on their frustration level. Help them choose the
right books even if it means lowering down one, two or three levels. It can build up their self-confidence otherwise.

Reading the words from left going to the right can be a difficult task for a struggling readers. Words appear to move around, or even the spaces between words are unclear to them. In this case, it will be helpful to use a finger or a card beneath the words in order to help their eyes to track and focus on each word and letters. It will train the eyes to focus on the word he or she is reading instead of skipping. It also help the struggling readers not to look for other clues to simply guess the word.

Often, struggling readers have many wonderful strengths. Building things, solving puzzles, excellence in arts, drama and music are just some of it. Make use of these strengths to put up a style in teaching reading for which they will become interested with. Make sure to focus on reading by simple allowing them to feel joy in doing the things they love to do while experiencing success in reading as well.

Struggling readers don’t actually do good at reading between the lines with phonics, spelling, reading, or comprehension. A teacher need to make teaching clear and obvious. It has to be shown exactly what to do and how to do it.

Asking questions is a great reading comprehension strategy.

When a struggling reader encounters a new word, it will be helpful for them if they look up the meaning of that word. Attaching meaning to a word is like remembering and decoding. After decoding, practice writing it and use it in a sentence.

According to Howard Gardner, people learn in a variety of way. People have multiple intelligence. A teacher should also consider visual, kinesthetic, and auditory activities in reading.
A multi-sensory way of teaching for struggling readers is best thing to do. To be more effective, teach these struggling readers by integrating all the three at one time when possible.

References:

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