Learning to read is not just about listening the text but also understanding as well as working out what’s printed on the page. Reading is one of the skill a learner should master at a very young age. Through hearing stories, learners are exposed to a wide range of words. This helps them construct their own vocabulary and develop their understanding when they listen, which is vital as they start to read. It’s important for them to understand how stories or other type of texts work too. Even if they didn’t understand every word, they’ll hear new sounds, words and phrases which they can then try out, copying what they have heard.

But nowadays, learning to read becomes one of the problem in the field of education and this affects the performance of the learners. Learners having difficulty in reading is a common problem in every classroom. In elementary schools, learners are often having difficulty in reading and others can be considered as non-readers. Proper strategy must be devise in handling and addressing this kind of problem. Teachers must be properly equipped.

Teachers sets the tone in the classroom, builds a warm environment, mentor and nurture learners, become role models, listen and look for signs and trouble but the most important role of the teachers is to impart knowledge and save the students from being illiterate. The teachers must develop an extensive knowledge base and draw on a repertoire of strategies for working with struggling students. Being patient and understanding are one of the qualities should a teacher has in teaching reading.
G. Rexlin Jose and William Dharma Raja concluded thru their article entitled “Teacher’s Role in Fostering Reading Skill: Effective and Successful Reading” that teachers need to train young learners in pronunciation, enrichment of vocabulary, acquisition of fluency and accuracy. Special assistance may be given to students with regard to the selection of materials for reading based on their age, time and capacity and determine their reading levels. In order to help struggling readers meet proficiency, teaching strategies must meet the needs of the learners.

If classroom teachers are to provide intensive reading intervention in the classroom setting, a better understanding of their experiences in such a role is necessary. So, it is still in the hands of the teachers to bring back the joy in reading for the learners and build a more harmonious world where no left behind.

Reference:


National Education for the Education of Young Children. (2009)