

# **HELP! My Child HATES to Read:**

## **Tips & Ideas to Get Your Reluctant Reader Reading**

Most Reluctant Readers I have met have one MAJOR thing in common ~ they lack confidence because of limited or no success. Some, of course, may WANT to read, but the way they learn needs to be approached using different strategies. If so, these tip sheets may or may not hold answers for you. If your child attends a school with a counsellor, schedule an appointment to voice your concerns. Your child's teacher may already have this in place. You can, also, talk with your child's pediatrician, who will be able to make recommendations for a specialist, if needed.

### **MEETING THESE CHALLENGES**

- Starts misbehaving when it is her/his turn to read ?
  - Says reading gives him/her a headache
    - Makes her/his eyes hurt ?
  - Thinks reading and/or its assignment is stupid ?
    - Says reading is boring ?
    - Gets confused when s/e reads ?
    - Gets lost during his/her reading ?
- Says s/he doesn't understand the content being read ?

### **WITH THESE POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

#### **Misbehaviors & Squirminess**

- Put the text on a screen so your child can stand & move while following a "bouncing ball" under or above the words.
- Have him/her dance in place & sing the words.
- Take turns reading the lines or pages.
- Read outside and/or away from home together.
- Read together in the evening after bath routines are done & it's close to bedtime ~ making it a sequential ritual.

#### **Headaches & Eye Pain**

- Have your child's vision tested ASAP.
- Have him/her tested for the possibility of a light sensitivity.

## MORE POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

### “Stupid & Boring”

- Make sure s/he is choosing the books to read.
- Offer a selection of books on his/her reading level with subjects that engage her/his interests. Humorous books are always a hit.
- Create unusual reading spaces like a Reading Tent, Book Cave, Corner Nook.
- Have her/him make up a story for you to write down, gluing each sentence to a blank book page, which s/he will draw a picture to go with the words.

### Confusion and/or Lost

- Make sure to do a Picture Walk before the read & have your child tell you what s/he thinks the story will be about.
- Slow your child’s reading pace down.
- Remind him/her to track the words while reading.

### Non-Comprehension

- Go over vocabulary words in the text before listening to your child read.
- After your child reads a page or two, have her/him retell what s/he has just read.
- Make sure s/he looks at the page’s pictures for clues.
- Ask the Who? Did what? When? Where? & Why? questions s/he did not include in his/her retell of what s/he just read.
- Have your child ask you comprehension questions about what s/he just read.
- See if s/he has any questions or concerns about the text s/he is reading.
- Encourage him/her to make a prediction about what is going to happen next.

## HOW YOUR CHILD CHOOSES A BOOK S/HE CAN READ

School librarians & teachers have a fool-proof formula for helping children select books on their reading level. Here are the steps to take once s/he picks one out:

- Open the book to any page & read the words on that page.
- Count the number of words s/he is unable to read and/or understand.
- **TOO EASY:** knows ALL the words, reads very quickly without paying much attention to what s/he is reading & is kind of bored reading the text
- **TOO HARD:** misses MORE than 3 or 4 words, reads at a choppy pace & doesn’t really understand what the text is saying
- **JUST RIGHT:** knows MOST of the words, may miss 1-3 words, reads in a slightly challenged pace & understands the main ideas of what has been read

## **NON~BOOK READING OPTIONS**

- **Pick up a large selection of age-appropriate comic books.**
- **Cut out cartoons from the newspaper & glue them into a large book.**
  - **Have your child create a daily cartoon of life.**
  - **Subscribe to a few kids' magazines and/or newspapers.**
- **Have your child cut out pictures from magazines, glue them to paper & write sentences about them.**
- **Cook a favorite meal together, take pictures of the steps, glue them to paper & write down matching sentences.**
  - **Capture her/him doing a favorite activity on film & write the screenplay together.**
    - **Use your child's favorite toys to write a story.**
- **Create posters of favorite movies, foods, restaurants, places, activities.**
- **Make maps with directions on how to get to favorite places, vacations.**
  - **Read street & traffic sign; billboards; businesses, shops, arenas, schools, centers & theater marquees**
    - **Make lists, menus & schedules together.**
  - **Compose songs & write them down on music sheets.**
    - **Construct collages with pictures & words.**
- **Have your child write a sequence of directions on how to build, create, invent and/or make a favorite something, compiling it into a manual.**
- **Write down your child's funniest moments and/or jokes as a monologue for a "stand-up" comedy skit.**