



Motivating Students to Read

The values, behaviors and beliefs a child develops about reading can largely affect their motivation when it comes to reading throughout the rest of their lives. Your child may be intrinsically or extrinsically motivated when it comes to reading. Explained in this handout are three motivational factors that can drive your child's reading. These include interest, confidence, and dedication. By using these factors in the classroom and at home we will be creating a winning combination for your child to find their way towards reading, and not away from it. If we start at this young age we have a great chance of fostering a love of books, reading, and literacy that your child can carry with them throughout the rest of their academic career!

Interest

"Motivation is enjoying a book, being excited about an author, or being delighted by new information" (Morrow & Gambrell, 2011, p. 178).

- Interest in a book or reading comes from within your child. They have an inner "interest" in reading. This is a great thing because if your child only likes to read because he or she gets a reward, your child may end up becoming more interested in the reward than the actual reading.
- Encourage your child to be curious and explore the interests they have by reading a book, or having a book read to them. Children this age have so many questions and are so curious about the world. Let's use this natural curiosity of theirs to create interest in books and reading!
- Talk and explain the books to your child. Take note of what interests them and find books and material to deepen their interests. Let them ask questions and fall in love with what they are reading.

Confidence

"Believing in oneself is more closely linked to achievement than any other motivation throughout school" (Morrow & Gambrell, 2011, p. 178).

- If your child likes reading, is confident with reading, they are MORE likely to want to read! Confidence is closely linked to success.
- This is very important because a lot of the students in the class are just learning English, and how to read the English language. We need to encourage and create confidence in every kid, no matter what reading level they are at!
- If your child is struggling with reading they may start doubting their abilities, lose confidence, and stop trying to read. Encourage your child's successes by reading age and level appropriate readings. This may be words for some and books for others. Create a safe learning space where your child can become confident with the words and books they are learning to read!

Dedication

"Students who value reading are dedicated in the sense that they devote effort, time, and persistence to their reading" (Morrow & Gambrell, 2011, p.179).

- Children need to be engaged in reading, and we need to teach them that reading is important. When they see it as important it will not seem like a task they have to do because someone told them.
- I know the students in the class are young, but we can model the importance of reading by showing the skills of devoting time, effort, and persistence to the children, when it comes to reading. When they see this in the classroom and at home, they will have a strong foundation to learn how to become dedicated readers.

A few other ideas to help motivate your child to read are to have a vast amount of reading materials and books available for your child. This should include many different topics, and also different materials. Use magazines, poems, newspapers, computers, Ipads, and captioning on the television to help your child be exposed to the variety of reading that will exist for them. Also

let your child decide what they want to read or have you read to them. This can help them take ownership of what they are learning. One last thing I can't stress enough is to talk with your child about what they are reading, or being read to. This social interaction combined with reading will deepen your child's knowledge of what has been read or read to them, which will help them to comprehend what they are reading and so on. This is a great circle for your child to enter, and one that will hopefully lead to a more **MOTIVATED READER!**



The website Reading Rockets provides a great collection of articles on motivation (<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/43271/>). These articles cover a wide range of ideas to motivate readers. The ideas come from not only teachers but also parents and kids. One article I would recommend checking out is *What Parents Can Do: Reading Tips From Kids* by Reading is Fundamental. This article gives examples of how to motivate kids to read, from kids themselves. These examples include letting children pick out their own books, modeling reading to your child, making reading fun and also creating caring associations with reading and books. A second article I would recommend taking a look at is *When Kids Hate to Read* by Anne Svenson. This article focuses on what parents can do to motivate children who hate to read and also how a parent can keep a child interested in reading if they already like to read. One of the main ways to help motivate children is to keep reading interesting to them. Find something they

like and material they can read about in regards to their interest. This may be a Sports Illustrated or a fashion magazine but it will get your child reading and interested in what they are reading. One main point from this article is to not force your child to read and struggle with books. That is no fun for your child and may make them hate reading even more! If your child is struggling find ways to help them by reading to them, support them when they are reading, and find a way to make your child feel good when they are reading. There are many more articles on this website and I encourage you to explore it and the many examples it provides of how to motivate your child to read!

References

- Gambrell, Linda and Morrow, Mandell. (2011). *Best Practices in Literacy Instruction fourth edition*. New York, N.Y. The Guilford Press.