Motivating Children as Readers

We can support struggling readers by boosting their self-motivation and providing external motivators too. In order to build motivation, struggling readers need to:

- experience the pleasure and usefulness of reading
- be offered books and other texts that are inviting and engaging; they must appeal to children’s interests, make links to their experiences and stimulate their imagination
- experience reading success as well as challenge. Materials they use to learn to read must be matched to their needs
- experience reading as a social, collaborative event not just as an individual endeavour
- get focused and timely feedback on their achievements
- have a clear sense of the progress they are making over time.

Building motivation

1. Share the pleasures of reading. Make sure children have lots of experience of hearing texts read aloud, of browsing texts and talking about exciting books and other reading materials that are beyond their current independent reading ability.

2. Let them see the importance of reading for operating effectively in our day to day lives.

3. Think about external motivation and make it something of really high status. For example, one school created a VIP lounge with access at playtime and lunchtime for those children who met agreed goals.

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