

GUIDING STRUGGLING READERS TO SUCCESS

by:

Carmela D. Tasis

Master Teacher I, Sta. Rosa Elementary School

One of the fundamental skills that a student must learn is reading because it allows them to perform efficiently and engage in a lifelong learning process. At some point, reading tends to be a challenge for them to cope with in the school which greatly affects their overall performance and confidence. Teachers should exert effort and consider finding extra time to support struggling readers. In line with this, parents are also considered as teachers' partners to encourage and help learners to learn how to read and foster love towards reading.

Modified and individualized learning instructions are one of the best strategies to cater to the needs of struggling readers. Students have various characteristics and personalities, and they learn in different ways. The use of various approaches depending on their qualities allows teachers to target the very specific needs of development. This various approach includes the use of multimedia platforms, online applications, visual and auditory learning materials, and even hybrid approaches which are usually a combination of traditional and modern techniques. We must take into account the student's level of comprehension to choose the kind of approach, strategy, and technique that matches their level appropriately.

It is also significant to have a stress-free and learning-conducive reading area that supports and promotes the needs of the learners. Struggling readers mostly are shy and anxious about reading out loud, which can fail to participate. As a teacher, we should ensure nonjudgmental classroom vibes which can make a better impact on students' progress and development. Reading a story aloud in front of the classroom, discussing

important events based on the story, and even asking simple questions can boost their motivation and encourage them to participate in class.

Exposing students consistently in reading is one of the key aspects of improvement. The collaborative effort of both the teachers and the parents can greatly affect students reading habits by introducing them to and engaging them in different activities such as storytelling, declamation, and interactive reading applications. We can also provide them with various reading materials such as magazines, comics, novels, and even digital materials that can help them to choose what interests them the most. Setting expectations and celebrating little achievements can have a positive effect when it comes to their confidence, motivation, and improvement.

Working hand in hand with parents and other stakeholders will be one of the most effective ways to support struggling readers to cope with the challenges they are facing. As a teacher, we can also help parents by providing them with various strategies and reading materials to promote learning at home. A participative and effective teacher-parent collaboration will have a great impact on ensuring that students will receive full support in the teaching and learning process.

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