

READING PROFICIENCY LEVELS

by:

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Reading proficiency is not just a skill but a necessity for academic achievement. Fluent readers attain improved scholastic performance and higher grades. Children gain confidence when they enthusiastically approach learning and fully comprehend what they read. Strong reading abilities help kids understand more effectively and retain a variety of information by enhancing their language and communication skills. Children can also acquire reading abilities that boost their confidence and enthusiasm for reading by regularly reading on their own. Reading is not just a fundamental component of education but a cornerstone of academic success. It is a necessary skill for both academic endeavors and lifetime learning. Reading broadens one's understanding and introduces one to new concepts. Mental capacity is needed for this challenging endeavor (Ratminingsih et al., 2020).

Reading substantially impacts students' cognitive development by improving their ability to concentrate, spark their imaginations, foster greater creativity, improve their language and communication abilities, and make them more analytical and critical thinkers (Azevedo et al., 2021). A learner must also possess high reading comprehension to understand and evaluate written material. Students can use this ability to find pertinent data, draw conclusions, and pinpoint details. On the other hand, a reader who needs assistance comprehending will face challenges in day-to-day living. Cadiz-Gabejan and Quirino (2021) state that a reader's incapacity to understand the written material impairs their reading abilities. To succeed academically, students must be proficient readers. Reading-challenged students cannot access the resources they require to complete their education.

They need strong processing abilities to comprehend what they read, especially in working memory. A child may struggle with reading for several reasons. However, with the right interventions, struggling readers have the potential to improve significantly. In addition to having poor reading comprehension and fluency, students frequently have trouble decoding words. Teaching reading strategies has a significant positive impact on the development of reading comprehension (Okkinga et al., 2018). Reading intervention techniques must be used when instructing struggling readers. Teachers can help these students become proficient readers by implementing focused interventions appropriate to each student's requirements.

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