# IMPROVING READING IN BASIC EDUCATION

*by:*
**Pressy Leen F. Lima**
*Teacher I, Marina Bay Elementary School*

Teaching reading in basic education is one of the most important foundations for a child's academic success. The ability to read and comprehend texts allows students to gain knowledge across all subjects, build their vocabulary, and develop critical thinking skills that help them better understand the world around them. Reading is not only about recognizing words on a page; it is about making meaning, connecting ideas, and using language to explore new perspectives. Because of this, it is the responsibility of educators to design effective strategies for teaching reading and to ensure that students develop strong literacy skills that will serve them throughout their education and beyond.

The first step in teaching reading is to understand the different components that make up the reading process. Reading is not a single skill but rather a combination of abilities that must work together. One of the most basic skills is decoding, which refers to the ability to recognize letters, connect them with their corresponding sounds, and blend them into words. Comprehension is another key component, as students must be able to interpret and understand the meaning of what they read. Vocabulary knowledge is equally important because students cannot make sense of a text if they do not know the meaning of the words it contains. When decoding, comprehension, and vocabulary are developed together, students are more likely to become confident and fluent readers.

One effective approach that teachers often use to support early reading is phonics. Phonics focuses on linking letters and sounds, which helps children decode unfamiliar words accurately. By practicing phonics, students gain the tools to break down complex words into manageable parts. This approach builds a strong foundation for reading

fluency and reduces the frustration that many children feel when they encounter new words. Alongside phonics, comprehension strategies are essential. Techniques such as predicting what might happen in a story, asking questions about a text, identifying main ideas, and summarizing content help students to engage actively with reading materials. These strategies not only improve understanding but also encourage students to think critically and reflect on the content they read.

Creating a literacy-rich classroom environment is another vital aspect of teaching reading. A classroom filled with books, magazines, newspapers, and digital reading resources provides students with opportunities to explore reading in different formats. Having access to a wide variety of materials also allows children to find texts that reflect their personal interests and cultural backgrounds, making reading more meaningful and enjoyable. Teachers can encourage independent reading by setting aside time for silent reading, organizing book corners, or holding storytelling sessions. By surrounding children with print and encouraging daily reading habits, teachers help students develop a love for reading that goes beyond schoolwork.

Technology can also play a powerful role in supporting literacy development. Interactive programs such as Reading Eggs, Raz-Kids, or other educational apps provide engaging activities that adapt to each student's ability level. These tools allow children to practice reading at their own pace while receiving instant feedback that helps them improve. Teachers can also use technology to monitor progress and identify areas where additional support is needed. Online libraries and audiobooks can further expand students' access to diverse texts, giving them more opportunities to practice their reading skills in fun and interactive ways.

It is also important to remember that teaching reading goes hand in hand with building motivation. Children are more likely to become strong readers when they view reading as enjoyable rather than as a task. Teachers can promote motivation by celebrating progress, providing choices in reading materials, and connecting stories to

real-life experiences. Reading aloud to students is another effective practice, as it models fluent reading, introduces new vocabulary, and demonstrates how stories can come alive through expression and tone.

In conclusion, teaching reading in basic education is a critical responsibility that requires thoughtful strategies and a supportive learning environment. To become successful readers, students must develop skills in decoding, comprehension, and vocabulary, supported by approaches such as phonics and comprehension strategies. At the same time, a literacy-rich classroom and the use of technology can make reading more engaging and accessible. When educators foster both skill development and a love for reading, they equip students with the tools they need not only to succeed academically but also to enjoy lifelong learning. Strong reading skills give children the confidence to explore knowledge, communicate effectively, and thrive in their future endeavors.

*References:*

Proven Tips to Improve Reading Comprehension Skills for Students

https://www.prodigygame.com/main-en/blog/improve-reading-comprehension/

Improving reading comprehension

https://education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/en/home/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/literacy-and-numeracy/resources-for-schools/guides/Improving-reading-comprehension-guide-3-8.pdf