

## REMEDIAL READING: THE KEY TO EVERY PUPIL'S ADVANCEMENT

*by:*

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In the world of education, reading is the foundation of all learning. It is the basic skill that opens the door to knowledge in various subjects such as Filipino, English, Science, and Mathematics. However, there are some students who need thorough guidance to fully develop their reading skills. This is where remedial reading comes in.

Remedial reading is an educational intervention that focuses on students who are struggling with reading. It aims to identify specific weaknesses – be it in sound and letter recognition, word formation, correct pronunciation, reading speed, or text comprehension – and address them through systematic instruction. In this way, every child is given the opportunity to catch up and keep up with their class.

Remedial reading is not just a simple repetition of lessons. It uses various strategies such as phonics instruction, guided reading, use of appropriate reading materials according to the child's level, and continuous assessment of progress. Also important is a positive environment where the child is not ashamed or afraid of making mistakes but is encouraged and praised for each improvement.

In line with the Department of Education's thrust to address learning gaps and ensure that every learner acquires foundational skills in reading, the ARAL Program (Academic Recovery and Accessible Learning Program) is being implemented as one of the flagship initiatives under the National Learning Recovery Plan (NLRP). Particularly in Bataan an important step has been taken through the ARAL Program. This program aims to strengthen the reading skills of students in public schools in the province. With

the help of teachers, administrators, and partner stakeholders, the ARAL Reading Program provides thorough training, appropriate materials, and clear guidance to help children who need additional support in reading.

Remedial reading has a significant impact on a student's overall performance. When they learn to read with understanding, self-confidence increases and they become more active in class discussions. Furthermore, the possibility of absenteeism and learning delays is reduced. A child who can read has a greater opportunity to succeed not only in academics but also in life.

Remedial reading is not just a program but a promise – a promise that no child will be left behind. With the continued implementation of initiatives like the ARAL Reading Program of Bataan, the purpose of education is further strengthened: to provide quality and meaningful learning to every student.

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