

## 17 Key Strategies to Encourage Reading

1. Make reading a routine.
2. Try reading for only short periods of time.
3. Read stories that include the student's special interests to motivate reading and comprehension.
4. Let the child read one book of interest to them and one you choose.
5. Include mainly non-fiction books rather than fiction.
6. Make photo books about their own experiences to encourage reading. Digital cameras make this very easy. You can use the same photos over and over and create a whole range of books.
7. Share personal stories on the topic (make it real).
8. Make connections between the book and student's special interest.
9. Find other books which may be related to the same topic.
10. To extend comprehension remind the student to look at the pictures in books.
11. 'Think out loud' – model your own questions and answers to the text.
12. Ask questions to check comprehension.
13. If the student has difficulty with questions start a sentence "*The boy is....*" rather than "*What is the boy doing?*"
14. If the student enjoys drawing, get the child to draw pictures about the text they have read. Use cut and paste activities. Eg, cut up the sentences and have the student match the words to pictographs or cut up the sentence and put back together.
15. For children with visual perception difficulty it is important to teach the child to point to the word so they keep track of where they are up to.
16. Use the Time Timer or digital timers (see pg 56) to establish how long they are reading. If it is found reading drags sometimes rather than read a 'whole book' aim for a set amount time reading.
17. Do reading in the morning or on weekends and holidays when they are not already tired from school.

**Great Apps for reading include:** *Reading Eggs* and *School A-Z*