

## 10 Ways to Help Your Reluctant or Struggling (Striving) Reader

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1. **Determine the reason** for the reluctance and struggling. Is it because your child can't read, can read but chooses not to, or can read but can't find anything interesting to read? Does your child need to have an eye exam?
2. Remember to **offer encouragement** and positive praise when your child does read.
3. **Talk with your child** about why he is no longer reading. The discussion may be revealing.
4. Remember the importance of the **read-aloud**. Your child may miss the reading time together. Returning to the read-aloud may help her reconnect to reading.
5. Consider starting at the **beginning of the reading process**. Work on rhymes, initial sounds, blending sounds to form words, and letter recognition.
6. Try to **determine** where the reading problems are. Is the child having trouble with vocabulary, comprehension, or fluency? Work on those areas. Visit the Raising Readers in Story County website for ideas to help with these areas ([www.raising-readers.org](http://www.raising-readers.org)).
7. Help your child find books that are most **interesting** to read. Find books that are similar to books that he currently likes. Find additional books from a favorite character or a series. Find books based on his favorite sport, hobby, special collection, and favorite movie or TV program. Visit the Raising Readers in Story County website ([www.raising-readers.org](http://www.raising-readers.org)) for a list of suggested reading materials.
8. **Play some reading-related games** like Scrabble, Scrabble Jr., and Upwords; and simple games like Memory, Go Fish, and Tic-Tac-Toe with letters instead of pictures.
9. Provide **a variety of reading materials** in the home: This can include magazines, newspapers, books, dictionaries, encyclopedias, and other reference materials. Your child will be more likely to read for pleasure and to obtain information if there is reading material around.
10. Ask your child to **do reading around the home**. This includes reading recipes, writing the shopping list, and looking up a telephone number