

Reading and Writing Strategies for Struggling Learners

My child is struggling with reading and writing. What can I do?

For some children, school is a breeze. They process information quickly, write multiple page essays, and plow through complex math problems. Yet for other kids, learning - whether it's online or in person - is a real struggle.

What can you as a parent do to help?



Phonics

Many children have trouble sounding out words – especially ones they haven't seen before. They may look at the beginning letter and guess at the correct word or simply skip certain words when reading. You can help reinforce these skills by:

- Encouraging them to sound out shorter words and syllabicate longer words when reading;
- Have them trace letters in colored sand, salt, or shaving cream for a tactile experience;
- Use magnetic tiles and ask them to spell the word sound-by-sound using the tiles.

Reading Fluency

Reading fluency is a key component of reading for meaning. Help your child improve their reading fluency with this four-step choral reading process:

- Select a passage slightly below your child's approximate reading level. Have them read the passage aloud as a cold read;
- Read the same passage aloud to model appropriate fluency;
- Read together, having your child keep up with your pace;
- Have your child read the same passage out loud as a final read.

Draw their attention to the difference between their first and final reads and empower them with the improvement!



For more information
Call (212)-249-0147
or visit www.eblcoaching.com

Does My Child Need a Tutor?

Slipping Grades

For many students, the beginning of elementary school is a cinch. They master basic reading and math skills and enjoy completing homework assignments and worksheets independently. Yet some students reach a pinnacle – often around 3rd or 4th grade – when the academic demands accelerate and their grades start to drop. If you notice that your child's grades dip consistently for a period of three to four months, he may benefit from some additional support.



Reading Comprehension

Becoming an active reader can help students improve their overall comprehension and memory skills.

- Before reading a passage or text book selection, ask your child to review any headers, sub-headers, pictures, picture captions, and vocabulary words;
- Talk to them about prior knowledge he may have about the topic before reading;
- Have them predict what he thinks the passage will be about before he begins;
- Have them highlight the topic (one, two, or three words describing the passage) in blue, main idea (what the author is saying about the topic) in green, and the important details (important information describing the main idea) in yellow.

Vocabulary

Many children respond well to visual graphics for learning new information. To help your child learn new vocabulary words, try this multi-sensory approach:

- Have them write each vocab word using a black marker on the front of a flash card;
- Have them turn the card around and divide the back side into three horizontal sections;
- At the top, have your child write the definition of the word in their own words (not verbatim from a dictionary);
- Have your child draw a horizontal line beneath it, and write a detailed sentence integrating the word;
- Finally, at the bottom, have your child draw a picture illustrating their sentence to help them remember the definition.



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Her Confidence Dips

Often, when children feel they are not “good” at an academic skill – they see their peers reading chapter books, for instance, when they can only read 3-letter words in basic BOB books – their self-esteem may tumble. By building a child’s academic skills through tutoring, she has the ability to excel, and their self-esteem often improves along with it.



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Writing

Instead of simply starting to write (or staring at a blank sheet of paper), encourage your child to follow a three-step approach:

- **Brainstorm**
She should create an outline, list, or web diagram to help them organize their ideas before writing.
- **Write**
She should convert this information into an organized paragraph or essay.
- **Go back and self-check her work**
For self-checking, she can try using an acronym like COPS, which stands for Capitalization, Organization, Punctuation, Spelling, where she self-checks for each element (one at a time) once she is done writing.



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Homework Meltdowns

For some kids, the task of completing homework – or at least certain types of homework – can seem insurmountable. They may lose their patience, become easily frustrated, and often have complete meltdowns. Often, a third party tutor – someone who is not mom or dad – can be just the solution for building skills, easing frustration, and preventing these dreaded meltdowns.



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Poor Time Management Skills

As children move through school, studying and time management demands increase rapidly. Many students, however, have poor executive functioning and time management skills. Those who once thrived in school often start to plummet academically as these demands rise. A tutor can teach these students concrete planning and time-management strategies so their activity load feels much more manageable.



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Math

With math instruction becoming increasingly more language-based, many students are struggling with this skill. Help your child learn to effectively solve math word problem using the OINS strategy (Operation, Information, Number Sentence, Solution Sentence).

- Your child should start by reading the problem;
- Then he should circle the relevant information, cross out the irrelevant information, and circle the key word(s) that tells them what kind of operation to use;
- Then he should break the problem down into four steps, and write out each step separately – O (operation), I (relevant information), N (number sentence), and S (solution sentence). By breaking each problem down into these individual steps, he can learn to solve word problems in a clear and organized manner.

If you think your child might have a learning disability or ADHD, EBL Coaching can help. Call 212-249-0147 for more info.



Does My Child Need a Tutor?

Your Child Asks for a Tutor

When most of us were children, the idea of working with a tutor seemed almost like a punishment. Yet in our current high-demand environment, with Common Core standards and new advances in our curricula, having a tutor can seem like a gift. The negative connotation connected to tutoring has turned positive. Many students now self-advocate and ask their parents for a tutor, seeing how this support has helped their peers and friends.

If you notice your child struggling, you may want to consider a tutor. This added support can help your child feel calm, confident, and successful in school.

EBL Coaching specializes in multi-sensory Orton Gillingham tutoring. Call 212-249-0147 to find out the best options for your child.

Visit our website at www.eblcoaching.com