

# Connections

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LITERACY

## Reluctant Readers

Reluctant reader is a term that is used when describing a child or young adult who does not like to read. When asked to read, they may put the book down, just hold the book, or stare out the window. A reluctant reader may be a child that cannot read yet or is struggling with reading. Perhaps the child just prefers to be outside or engaged in some activity. Reluctant readers can be a child that has not found the type of book that truly catches their interest.



We all know that reading for enjoyment improves a child's fluency for reading and their confidence with reading skills. Reading exposes children to vast amounts of vocabulary. Children who read for enjoyment have better literacy skills and background knowledge. They can use what they learn in reading to assist with reasoning, thinking, and problem solving.

## Action Items

### First

It may be very useful to attempt to discover why your child is hesitant to read.

1. Is the child struggling with reading?
2. Can the child read but they would just rather be active?
3. Is your child only interested in a certain type of books, such as manga or nonfiction?
4. Does the child need to be around more people and/or children who are reading?

### Strategies

- Be sure your child has models around them who are reading.
- Try all different types of books to find ones that will catch their interest.
- Let the child choose the book to read.
- Make reading a special time to feel safe, confident, and comfortable.
- Discuss the books with the child to show you are engaged too.
- Check the book's reading level to be sure that the child can experience success.

### If you have a struggling reader, book selection may help.

Check out this article from Reading Rockets and video on tips for caregivers and teachers to encourage reading:

[Hooking Struggling Readers: Using Books They Can and Want to Read](#)



### Take Away

Working with a reluctant reader may be challenging at times. It may take some work to help a child realize that reading is fun! Once the child embraces that knowledge, they have a whole new world open to them. Reading for fun has a positive impact on their academic growth and self-esteem.

## Learn More

### Resources for families

- [Understanding reluctant readers and how to support them](#)
- [5 Strategies for Engaging Reluctant Readers](#)
- [Reluctant Readers—How to Motivate Reluctant Readers \(13 Tips Included\)](#)
- [Q&A about Reluctant Readers](#)

### Books

- [15 Books for Kids who Can't Sit Still](#)
- [Books for Reluctant Readers](#)
- [50+ Funny, Illustrated Book Recommendations for Reluctant Readers](#)
- [Top Teacher-Recommended Books for Reluctant Readers of All Ages](#)

### IDEAL Milestones – Literacy

The Indiana Deaf Education and Assessments of Language (IDEAL) Parent Document includes literacy skills for each age group, from birth through the age of 10 (in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)). These continue on in [The Next Steps](#) document that includes reading and writing skills for middle school students, high school students and young adults.

To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers