



5 Tactics to Motivate Adolescents with Word Reading Difficulties

Shared by Linda Diamond, Author of the *Teaching Reading Sourcebook*

“Nothing motivates students as much as success.”

Adolescent students who have struggled with reading for many years are usually very discouraged. The most important thing educators can do in addition to providing students with access to high-quality core curricula is to provide reading intervention that is targeted to their specific needs so that they can quickly start seeing success. Students want to read well themselves rather than rely on scaffolding in core classes or being read aloud to. Once they begin to see gains in their reading abilities, they'll be motivated to continue the work.

Here are five tactics that Linda has found to be effective in engaging and motivating adolescents with word reading difficulties.

1. Dedicate time to reading intervention, even if that means unscheduling students from core classes or electives.
2. Read aloud from higher level materials to work on vocabulary.
3. Provide students with access to hi-low books to make reading interesting so that students want to keep reading.
4. Read plays. Plays are easier for students struggling to read because they are written in very small sections of text.
5. Graph students' fluency so they can see their gains in words read per minute.

[Watch Linda Diamond talk about these strategies.](#) ➤

Get More Advice for Supporting Students with Word Reading Difficulties

Visit pivotlearning.org/library to watch additional videos featuring Linda Diamond and other experts. You'll also find many other resources to build your knowledge of word reading difficulties, including dyslexia.