



Building a Reading Habit in the Classroom



Building a Habit in Student Reading

Getting students to read for extended periods of time can be challenging, especially in today's climate. Below are listed a few tips that can engage students to develop the ability to focus for as long as 25 minutes or more at a time.

- Start small. Start with 5 minutes of reading time, and you can add a few minutes per week to eventually read for as long as you see fit.
 - Set a timer. This will relieve anxiety some feel when reading. Many teachers even project timers in front of the class. This could also make reading more effective.
 - Ask students to share what they read or how many points they earned the day prior.
 - Have students self assess their reading stamina at the beginning and/or end of reading. Many teachers have students rate themselves on a 1-5 scale.
 - Commit to meeting with two students daily—even if one meeting is just a check-in. This will impute purpose onto your students in their reading.
 - After students read, have them turn and tell their neighbor what they read.
 - Have students write new words on a pad of paper or a notebook while they read.
 - Have reflective class discussions. Ask them:
 - What is the best book you read?
 - What is the worst book you read?
 - What ideas did you learn?
 - What words did you learn?
 - How much are you learning, on a 1-5 scale?
 - Who used a new word this week? What was it? Where did you use it?
 - In your reflective class discussions, ask students to turn and tell their neighbors the answer of the questions.
 - Ask students for ideas for our authors to consider as they write new books. (We can always use input from our teachers and students at AIR Language.)
 - Celebrate the students who advanced to the next level on the progress check.
 - Use the books as a springboard to apply vocabulary in discussion on topics students read about.
 - Put up the following charts on the wall:
 - Words gained from AIR Language
 - Student progress
 - Achieved AIR Goals for students who consent to their being there.
 - Develop a reading log with books read, points earned, or time spent reading
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- Get AIR.