

6 Ways to Help Your Child Read Short Stories

Learning to read can be hard work! Many kids see this as a fun challenge, but some kids just get discouraged.

What do you do if your child hits a roadblock and suddenly doesn't enjoy reading the short stories in your reading curriculum? The ideas below will help get your child back on track—and enjoying reading.



Set a timer. Have your student read until the timer goes off. Choose the length of time according to your student's ability and attention span. You may need to start with a short time such as three minutes, and then gradually build up to ten minutes.



Divide the story into two or three parts. Have your student read just one section in a sitting. Bookmark the page. At the next reading session, have your student listen as you reread the part he has already read, and then have him continue reading on his own.



Reread. Rereading stories from previous lessons will help your student gain fluency and confidence. During subsequent readings, your child will be "warmed up," allowing him to experience better comprehension and helping him to enjoy the stories more.



Try buddy reading. Split up the reading duties by reading with your child. Alternate pages by reading a page yourself and then having your child read the next. For more practice, try buddy reading twice, switching pages each time, and then have your child read the story on his own.



Review. The more familiar a child is with the words in a story, the easier it will be for him to read the story. So be sure to spend plenty of extra time reviewing words with [flashcards](#), [activities](#), and [Practice Sheets](#) before reading the story.



Encourage your child. Reading stories takes a lot of mental effort—especially for kids who haven't developed [automaticity](#) (the ability to read the words without conscious thought). All these tips will help as your child develops automaticity, but in the meantime, [be extra supportive](#).