

## SUPPORTING A CHILD WHO FINDS READING DIFFICULT

### DID YOU KNOW?

Research strongly suggests that reading for pleasure makes the most difference to students' progress and attainment with reading. This applies to specific skills, as well as overall attainment in reading – for example, comprehension, vocabulary and grammar.

For students who struggle with reading, their motivation and pleasure from it is understandably low. It produces a cycle: as they struggle and don't enjoy it, they read less – and because they read less, they don't progress and then find that they struggle to acquire the necessary knowledge in many other subjects too.

It is therefore so important that we help them not just with their reading skill, but their perception of it as an enjoyable activity.

The National Literacy Trust research into the interrelationships between reading enjoyment, attitudes, behaviour and attainment suggests that the current thinking could be considered as a 'cycle of positive influence'.

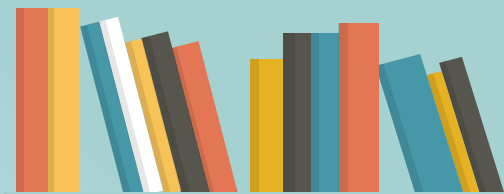
**1. Students take part in an activity such as reading/ story telling.**

**4. This then needs to be positively reinforced for the cycle to continue and for the student to remain positive.**



**2. If this experience was a positive one, then they may be motivated through factors such as enjoyment or connection with the other person involved.**

**3. Students are then more likely to develop positive attitudes towards reading.**



## HOW COULD YOU HELP YOUR CHILD TO FEEL POSITIVELY ABOUT READING?

- Discuss reading in a positive way and share your own experiences or any texts you've enjoyed.
- Avoid making it a chore through approaches such as 'if you read for 15 minutes, you can...'
- Often younger children enjoy reading whilst they are still reading with their parents and their interest wanes when it becomes an independent activity and they no longer share a connection with someone over a book. Read with them or listen to audiobooks, if you don't feel confident enough to read yourself.
- Emerging research from the National Literacy Trust shows that audiobooks could help to increase interest in reading, as well as modelling good fluency in reading.
- Research by the National Literacy Trust showed that reading for pleasure increased during lockdown; one of the reasons students gave for this was having the time and fewer distractions. This would suggest that helping your child to balance their time and factor reading into their schedule in a quiet environment would be beneficial.
- Carefully choose texts which are appropriate for child. You may wish to read the Finding Reading Material for your Child guide for more information here.
- Help your child to experience feeling successful with reading. Praise them and show interest in what they've read.

