



Categories & Ideas for Student Motivation: Notes from Table Discussions

Table #1

Positive Reinforcement:

- Give concrete rewards (stickers, pencils, notebook, etc.)
- Verbal encouragement and praise
- Make them feel special!
- Smile and laugh with them
- Give high-fives
- “You’re doing what good readers do! Nice work!”

Fun:

- Make the reading fun! Use voices as appropriate – “lions roar!”
- Vary length of activities – keep them engaged, keep them focused.
- Be silly together!
- Use fun books that lend to role-play and reflect their interests.

Purpose:

- Help students understand their purpose for being there and for the activities you’ll do together
- Have high expectations and show students that you are confident they can meet those expectations

Activities:

- Use a variety of materials – magnetic letters, white board, chalk board, Etch-a-Sketch, etc.
- Write story using worksheets & Reading Seed Journals
- Vary the activities and games you use with students

Table #2

Making it Fun:

- Use picture books without words (create their own story)
- Give rewards
- Focus on FUN
- Record what your students says, then bring it back for them to read and edit.
- Make your student feel successful
- Use different tools

Interests/Goals:

- Encourage and acknowledge each success
- Bring own books to use
- Find out what they are interested in

- Give choices for books

Comfort/Safety:

- Make sure student feels accepted
- Make a connection with your student

Table #3

- Give choice of books (3-5), but not too many
- Have them practice writing about what they read about
- Creative storytelling
- Pick out books in advance
- Use games, worksheets, journals, etc.
- Find student's level and interests and then choose books.
- Have student write or dictate own story
- Give lots of praise
- Play games (flash cards, chutes & ladders, etc.)
- Give books as gifts
- Get books from the library and let them choose from that group.
- Get to know the students so you can find out what books they might like.