

Miss Estler's Reading Tips

Teachers and parents can become frustrated when their students/children are not becoming accurate readers, writers, or spellers. The following are some strategies commonly taught that can make **reading, spelling, and writing more difficult** for many students:

- *Guessing words* - This typically involves some variation of students looking at the first letter and flinging out a word that starts with that letter. It does not lead to reading. Reading “the beautiful butterfly” when “the bouncing basketball” is written will not result in understanding a story about a basketball game.
- *Memorizing words* - This results in misreading of words from 2nd – 3rd grade on, when the student’s memory has maxed out. This is why most students in Special Education are reading at a 3rd grade level.
- *Using Inventive Spelling* - This refers to allowing students to spell however they want without consistent correction. This does not lead to a student waking up one day and magically being able to spell accurately. Though spelling and reading use the same English alphabetic code, spelling is more challenging than reading. If you are a poor speller, you are not reading to your potential. Reversing the habit of misspelling words takes longer than reversing the habit of inaccurate reading. Most current instructional writing practices create poor spellers.
- *Putting more focus on the letter names instead of the sounds* - Sounds are what we typically access to read. Putting the focus on the letter names (especially consonants) can cause confusion to students. They will say /d/ for the letter w because the first sound in the letter name (d-ou-b-le-y-ou) is /d/. They will say /w/ for the letter y because the first sound in the letter name (wh-y) is /w/.

What is something that will help your child become a more accurate reader, writer, or speller?

- Having your child practice saying the sound as they write each letter when writing!
- Having your child blend as they read.

These tips are from EBLI. You can find more about what good readers do and even see video clips on the blog: EBLIREADS.com.