How to encourage reluctant readers

Some children are able to sit still for a long bedtime story, while others get restless. Some children take to books immediately, and others need more encouragement. This is entirely normal. Each child is different, and what they enjoy changes vastly as they grow older.

Why don't they want to read?

People sometimes think that a "reluctant reader" is always a "Tess able reader" – which can't be further from the truth.

Reluctant readers are often bright children who have never connected with books.

Perhaps they never had reading materials that were meaningful to them.

Or there were no stories available in their mother tongue.

How can you get them excited about reading?

1. Focus on their strengths, not their weakness

Some children find reading challenging, so it's less likely that they will choose to read for pleasure. The best thing is to try to bring back the enjoyment of reading. Find a story or comic that they like or make up a story for them! Do not force your children to read books that they don't want to read. Reading should be an interesting, relaxing and fun activity for children!

2. Bigger exposure

Visit the library or bookshops and let your children choose books that they want to read. Reading something is better than not reading at all, so don't worry if the books your children choose seem to be too easy for them, or deal with subjects that you think are not important.

3. Make it personal

Write to your children. Leave them little notes, poems or short stories in their lunch box or schoolbag. Once you start making reading and stories a normal. Each child is different, and what they enjoy changes vastly as they grow older.

Ungabenta njani kutsi bakujabulele kufundza?


Calu kusenezikhatsi


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See page 4 for some ideas to get your family reading regularly!

This supplement is available in the following newspapers: Eyethu Umlazi and Polokwane Observer.

English Edition 206

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Ngisho noma basengakakwati kufundza, kunetindlela lokuthathathwa ngumadolomatima kufundza. Longakakhe, futhi lekuthathathwa ngamadolomatima kufundza. Longakakhe, futhi lekuthathathwa ngamadolomatima kufundza.
Dear parents and caregivers of young children, recent studies have shown that drawing, painting, making models and other creative activities can help children to develop problem-solving skills. When doing art and crafts, children need to think creatively, think about different ways of solving problems, and make decisions based on what they see and understand in their environment.

Children need to develop critical thinking skills to work through and understand all the information that they come across every day. They have to use their different senses to understand and interpret all this information.

Sanibonani batali nebanakekelo bebantfawana labancane, lucwawingo lwakawumva laphambe kutsi kudwweva, kupenda, kwenda emamolodi nelatinye imisebenti yekusungula lokutsite kungasyla bantfwana bakhulise emakhono ekucatulula tinkinga. Nawaentera buclo nemisebenti yetanda, bantfwana kufikadeka bakubonge ngokusungula lokutsite, baphakathi balembi lelaphambe wekutsi, kugephelisa ngakho ngamene amakhono abanye bantfwana kune akukhusela lokuncane, kuze basebentise imiva yaba leyelele uthetha kungasite bantfwana

Drawing, painting, and clay modelling helps children develop these skills:

1. **Fine motor skills.** Using crayons, paint brushes and moulding clay helps children develop their fine motor muscles. This will help them with writing, using tools correctly and other tasks where they need to use small, controlled movements.

2. **Cognitive development.** Art can help children see and copy shapes and patterns. They also learn that a particular action has a particular outcome each time, for example, mixing red and yellow paint makes orange paint. They learn to plan how they will use their resources (paint, clay, paper, crayons) to make their artwork, and to interpret what they see in their environment when they draw people, animals and other objects.

3. **Math skills.** Children can learn, create and begin to understand concepts like size and shape. They learn about counting, about comparing different things, and that things appear bigger or smaller depending on how near or far they are.

4. **Language skills.** As children listen to your comments and questions and talk about their artwork and how they made it, they have the opportunity to connect with them.

5. **Drawing.** As children develop, they learn to copy shapes and patterns. They also learn that a particular action has a particular outcome each time, for example, mixing red and yellow paint makes orange paint. They learn to plan how they will use their resources (paint, clay, paper, crayons) to make their artwork, and to interpret what they see in their environment when they draw people, animals and other objects.

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5. **Emasheyiphu esitfombe**

Sika emasheyiphu

Bangaphindze babhaceke emacembe. Gcogca

4. **Kubhaceka lizambane noma sipontji**

Yakha sitfombe

3. **Buciko bekwakha sitfombe**

Pheka fulawa ngemanti esitofini lesishisa

Yakha pendi loshiphile lodliwako,

1. **Kupenda ngelitfumbu lekunatsa labancane yekwakha lokutsite**

labancane yekwakha lokutsite

Imisebenti lemelula yebantfwana labancane yekwakha lokutsite

**Easy art activities for young children**

1. **Straw painting** Use a drinking straw to pick up some paint, and splatter it onto a page or put a drop of paint onto the page and blow through the straw to make the paint spread out.

2. **Finger painting** Make cheap, edible paint because young children love putting things in their mouths! Cook some flour and water over medium heat. Stir the mixture constantly until it turns into a paste. Let it cool, and scoop the paste into as many cups as you need. Mix food colouring into each cup to make paints of different colours.

3. **Colour collage** Make a colour collage using only one colour. Your children can find their colour in old newspapers and magazines. They then cut or tear out the colour pieces and paste the bits of paper on a sheet of paper.

4. **Potato or sponge printing** Cut potatoes in half and cut some simple patterns into them or cut shapes from old sponges. Your children can then dip the potatoes or sponges into a tray of paint and print them onto paper. They can also make leaf prints. Collect leaves of different shapes. The children paint the leaves on one side then turn them over and print them onto paper.

5. **Shape picture** Cut different shapes out of coloured paper and then use the shapes to create a picture. Allow your children to create a picture on their own. Give them crayons so that they can add details to their shape pictures.

**Indlela longasebentisa ngayo tindzaba tefu ngetindlela letinyenti**

1. **Tjeda umntfwana wakho lendenza**

Funda kutsi uphinethhe kusuka lendzaba. Ngenza koyalobha sebelo ka kuthlazana, buso nemimba kube wente lendzaba pinile.

2. **Fundza umntfwana wakho lendenza**

Khaluma ngelitfumbane. Mibute, "Ucobanga kutsi yini leyentekiso ngemva kwakhulu?" Noma "Ucobanga kutsi kunjani lemlanga so citlo nomuna ente loku?"

3. **Fundza lendzaba ukanye nentfomhla wakho**

Shinhapien phenjene lendzaba ndawayo. Ungama laemphephenzwa ezicyo, futhi lubakhe kuhlana nabacela kwabanga kuqala koqala.

4. **Laleko umntfwana wakho njengooba elundzana**

Mileke ngephandle ilekwemphahlelo. Banye kutsi ukanye ubukho ukuthile ukuqala kwakhe lendzaba ngakubona ukuqala.

5. **Yenta imisebenti yencingane letsi - Yenta inzidza ibe nematlango!**

Kweka kutsi kulukelile kube mntsozi kube nakumntfumela wakho.
May is Get-Caught-Reading Month!

In May, we have 31 days to remind people of all ages just how much fun it is to read! Here are some ideas on how you can get into the spirit of Get-Caught-Reading Month and start spreading the joy of reading at home.

1. Read comic books together
   Comic books are a great way to persuade even the most reluctant readers to read. Comic books and graphic novels are fun to read aloud together, especially when you take turns and use different voices for different characters.

2. Make a list of books, magazines, stories and articles to read
   As a family, make a list of what each one would like to read during May. Then gather all the reading material into one place in your home. That way, each family member can find something that they want to read quickly and easily.

3. Drop everything and read
   Set aside a time every day when all family members will stop what they are doing, grab a book or story, and read! Include family members will stop what they are doing, grab a book or story, and read! Include

4. Share your success!
   Make a special effort to recognise and celebrate reading at home. Compliment your family members – young and old – on reading every day. Take photos and post them on your WhatsApp status. And share them with us on any of NatBabs’ social media sites.

Grow your own library.
Create TWO cut-out-and-keep books

1. Take out pages 5 to 12 of this supplement. on it makes up the other book. 10
2. The sheet with pages 5, 6, 11 and 12 on it makes up one book. The sheet with pages 7, 8, 9 and 10 on it makes up the other book.
3. Use each of the sheets to make a book. Follow the instructions below to make each book.
   a) Fold the sheet in half along the black dotted line.
   b) Fold it in half again along the green dotted line.
   c) Cut along the red dotted lines.

Yakha wakho unntapo wetincwadzi.
Yakha Incwadzi LETIMBILI lefikiciniweke letikicwe takishwa

1. Khopho emoakhasi le-5 kuya kule-12 alesengo.
2. Liphetha lelendawakhasi le-5, 6, 7 kanye nele-12 kuko lenta yinye incwadzi. Liphetha lelendawakhasi le-8, 9, 10 kanye nele-10 kuko lenta lenye incwadzi.
   a) Goba liphetha lelendawakhasi le-7, 8, 9, 10 kanye nele-10 kuko lenta lenye incwadzi.
   b) Liphetha lelendawakhasi le-5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 kanye nele-10 kuko lenta lenye incwadzi.
   c) Sika ulandzele imigca yemacashati labovu.

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1. Fundzani ndzawonye tincwadzi temahlaya
   Tincwadzi temahlaya iyindlela lekohle yekwento ngiso nkoko labamadlovomntima kulofazana onkhe malanga. Njengemndeni, yakhani luhla lwaloko ngamunye wenu

2. Yenta lua kuqeqela, bomagazini, tindzeba nemkhapha lokho lotatifundza
   Njengamndeni, yakhani lua kuqeqela ngamnyama weku-luqekela na-kulufazi ngisenzamile. Bese njengamandla

3. Yekela konke futsi ufundze
   Bekela ecelele sikhatho onkhoko lozama phapha onkho ekelele lelendawakhasi le-12, atsethe

4. Hlanganyela nebo imphumelololo yakho!
   Yenta umntnomini indawelokho sekwacaphela neku-buhango kulofazana onkhe malanga. Njengamandla

5. Imvelo leka, leti, levelo leka
   1. Khipha emoakhasi le-5 kuya kule-12 alesengo.
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6. Hlanganyela nebo imphumelololo yakho!
   Yenta umntnomini indawelokho sekwacaphela neku-buhango kulofazana onkhe malanga. Njengamandla

7. Imvelo leka, leti, levelo leka
   1. Khipha emoakhasi le-5 kuya kule-12 alesengo.
   2. Liphetha lelendawakhasi le-5, 6, 7 kanye nele-12 kuko lenta yinye incwadzi. Liphetha lelendawakhasi le-8, 9, 10 kanye nele-10 kuko lenta lenye incwadzi.

8. Hlanganyela nebo imphumelololo yakho!
   Yenta umntnomini indawelokho sekwacaphela neku-buhango kulofazana onkhe malanga. Njengamandla

9. Imvelo leka, leti, levelo leka
   1. Khipha emoakhasi le-5 kuya kule-12 alesengo.
   2. Liphetha lelendawakhasi le-5, 6, 7 kanye nele-12 kuko lenta yinye incwadzi. Liphetha lelendawakhasi le-8, 9, 10 kanye nele-10 kuko lenta lenye incwadzi.

10. Imvelo leka, leti, levelo leka
    1. Khipha emoakhasi le-5 kuya kule-12 alesengo.
    2. Liphetha lelendawakhasi le-5, 6, 7 kanye nele-12 kuko lenta yinye incwadzi. Liphetha lelendawakhasi le-8, 9, 10 kanye nele-10 kuko lenta lenye incwadzi.

11. Imvelo leka, leti, levelo leka
    1. Khipha emoakhasi le-5 kuya kule-12 alesengo.
    2. Liphetha lelendawakhasi le-5, 6, 7 kanye nele-12 kuko lenta yinye incwadzi. Liphetha lelendawakhasi le-8, 9, 10 kanye nele-10 kuko lenta lenye incwadzi.
Get story active!

🌟 Draw a picture of something that you would like to build out of throwaway things. Under your drawing, write one or two sentences about what you have made and who you would give it to.

🌟 What are some of the things that Muzi used to build a toy house for uGogo?

🌟 Gather old buttons, beads, recyclable materials, clay or play dough and build your own little house.

Yenta indzaba ibe nemdlandla!

🌟 Decide what kind of thing Muzi built to surprise his friend?

🌟 Butsa emakinobho lamadzala, buhlalu, netintfo letilahlwako, letilahlwako laseGogo?

🌟 Gather old buttons, beads, recyclable materials, clay or play dough and build your own little house.

The best thing ever

Melissa Fagan • Lauren Nel
Stefania Origgi

Ideas to talk about: What is your “best thing ever”? Is it something that you will share with others? Look at the cover of this booklet. What do you think the story is about?

Imibono lokungakhulunywa ngayo: Yini “intfo lekahle kakhulu” kuwe? Yintfo latshungaphambili nabo? Buka ikhaya yalekhulukuncane. Ucaphamulo kunzi lenzbaza imayelana nani?
On the road to uGogo’s, Muzi finds many things. Long things and short things. Round things and square things.

He is sad. Without his toys, how can he build the best thing ever?

Muzi loves to build things. He dreams of building the best thing ever.
Stories that Talk Money

is HEARTLINES’ third collection of stories about values. In this collection, the nine stories for children aged 6–12, focus on three money-related values: honesty, diligence, and the careful use of money and resources, or thrift.

Delightfully told and beautifully illustrated, from read-aloud stories for younger children, to the more edgy stories for older children, they are sure to be popular in homes and schools. In addition, the stories can be used, with the lightest of touches, to start conversations that will help children understand the worth of living out these values, both now and in the future.

Stories that talk money cover

For more information, please email info@heartlines.org.za or phone (011) 771 2540.

Kutfola lokunyenti sicele utfumele i-email info@heartlines.org.za noma ushayele ku-(011) 771 2540.

Get story active!

What do you think of the way that the pawpaw seller behaved towards Pasi and Piwai? What else could she have said and/or done when she found that the boys had accidently squashed the pawpaws?

Draw a picture of what you think the market looks like.

Act out what you think might have happened after the story ended. When Pasi and Piwai got home, what do you think their mother said and did?

Yenta indzaba ibe nemdlandi!


The market Superman

Ignatius Mabasa • Joseph Mugisha

Superman wasemakethe

Ideas to talk about: if you could have superpowers, what would you like them to be? Would you use it to benefit people in need or yourself only? What would you do with your superpowers?

Imibono lokungakhulunywa ngayo: Nangabe bewungaba nemandla lamakhulu, bewungatsandza kutsi abe wani? Ungawasebentisa kuze kuze kuze banthu labane ezingcima yini noma kuze kuze lekuze wela kuze wena kucinise? Yini lokungenteka nemandla akhe lamakhulu?
My name is Pasi. I am ten years old and live in Mbare in Zimbabwe. Our house is near the famous big vegetable market. Today we are having visitors and Mother is busy in the kitchen. I can smell the food from where I am playing with Piwai.

“Pasi, my boy, come here,” Mother’s voice calls from the kitchen. I go to her and she says, “I want you to go to the market and buy me a pumpkin. I want you back in five minutes.”

I nod as Mother hands me a bag and some money. I go to fetch my shoes. Piwai follows me and also starts putting on his shoes. Piwai is my brother. He is three years old. Piwai is deaf.


We walk past many stalls and heaps of smelly, overripe guavas. We see butternuts, peanuts and round-nuts. We see oranges. Another stall has a mountain of cabbages. Some people are selling green beans and green peas. There is broccoli and dirty cauliflower. Mother only likes cauliflower if it is snow-white.

There are also vendors selling red hot chilli. Piwai knows hot chilli because Father once gave him a little to taste and he coughed and cried until mother gave him some milk.

We can't walk fast in the market. We keep bumping into people. Some people push us and some are rude. Piwai is small and some people don't even see him, so I must act as his shield. I wish Mother had come to buy the pumpkin herself. We are almost at the pumpkin stall. I can already see the huge mound of pumpkins.

Without thinking, I quickly remove my shirt, shoes and trousers and hand them to her. She grabs them and stomps off. I walk home still holding Piwai's hand. All I have on are my blue and red Superman underpants.

Some children walk by and laugh at my Superman underpants, but I don't even care. All I know is that I am happy. I know my mother will go back to the market with me. Together we will sort out the mess with the angry pawpaw seller. But the most important thing is that I have saved my little brother. I am the market Superman!

"Piwai wants to come with me," I shout to Mother.
"Pasi, I don't want Piwai going with you. I want that pumpkin now."

I leave Piwai behind. He is struggling to put on his other shoe as I dash out of the house.
“Pasi, Pasi,” Mother calls again. I turn around and see her standing at the door with Piwai. His cheeks are wet with tears. “You had better take Piwai. Please hurry.”

It is busy at the market. There are many people shouting and talking, buying and selling, lifting, carrying and pushing. Piwai laughs at the man selling oranges. He is juggling three oranges in the air. He shouts that anybody who can do the same can get a discount. I hold Piwai’s hand firmly as we weave through the forest of people.

I nod. The other people in the market seem not to notice this woman and what she is doing to us. I feel so small against this big, angry woman.

The woman snatches my bag and money. She counts the money and says it can only pay for one pawpaw. Then she says, “I will take this money and your brother until you bring money for the other pawpaw.”

I panic. I can’t leave Piwai behind. This woman is mean and Piwai is so small. I have to protect him. I won’t leave him behind. I feel hot and my heart pounds.

“Madam, can I give you my shirt and shoes instead?” I manage to ask.

“Your shirt, shoes and trousers will do. That way I know you will bring my money.”

“Medemu, ngingakunika yini lihembe lami neticatfulo?”

“Ngingamane ngitsatse lihembe, ticatfulo nelibhuluko. Nangente njalo ngiyati kutsi utayiletsa imali yami.”

“Pasi, Pasi,” Mother calls again.
Today Muzi is going to visit uGogo.

By the riverside, Muzi finds more things. Soft things and pointy things. Green things and brown things.

Ngasemfuleni, Muzi utfola tintfo letinyenti. Tintfo letitsambile netintfo leticijile. Tintfo letiluhlata naletinsundvu.

Once he built a shelter for his toys.

"Oh, Muzi," laughs Gogo. "A new house for me. This is the best thing ever!"

"Hawu, Muzi," kuhleka Gogo. "Indlu lensha yami. Lena tintfo lenihle kakhulu!"

But it wasn't the best thing ever.

Kodvwa kwakungasiyo intfo lekahle kakhulu.
It was a good thing.

But not the best…

Bekuyintfo lekahle. Kodvwa lengasiyo lekahle kakhulu...

Look, Muzi! We are here.

Buka, Muzi! Silapha.

While uGogo bakes for the hungry travellers ...

Muzi builds.

“Gogo, Gogo!” says Muzi. “The world is full of toys. Look what I can build.”


Yesterday he built a bridge for his animals.

Itolo, wakhe libhuloho alakhela tilwane takhe.

Ngesikhatsi Gogo abhakela tilwane takhe... Muzi uyakha.
Sebentisa ihluli lencama nemphengkuze ukhubisise umjeka ngamunye ntilele lawo. Use some thin wool and pins to match each flag to its country.

Yenza indzaba ibe nemndlandla!

Yenza indzaba ibe nemndlandla! Yenza indzaba ibe nemndlandla!
It was finally the day of the bugs' awards ceremony! All the bugs were feeling very nervous. Who would win the medal for strength or for being the best runner? Who would be named the prettiest or the cleverest? Everywhere you looked, little bugs were humming up and down, combing their feelers and practicing their skills, showing off and getting grumpy with each other. That is, except Beetle.

“Wow, howzit? Aren’t you nervous, Beetle?” Cockroach asked as he rushed up.

“Who, me?” replied Beetle. “There’s nothing for me to be nervous about. I’m not fast, like you, Cockroach. No one’s as fast as you.”

“Really? That’s very nice of you, Beetle,” Cockroach smiled. “Uh oh, here comes Miss Beauty Pageant … I’m off. See you later.” And off he ran.

The bugs had gathered for the awards ceremony, and Beetle scurried along beside him.

“Supper, Ant! The bugs have gathered for the awards ceremony. Time for the awards ceremony. Are you coming?” Ant marched off towards the rock where all the bugs had gathered for the awards ceremony, and Beetle scurried along beside him.

Everyone was quiet. Mantis held up the first medal. “This year’s medal for the fastest runner, goes to … Cockroach!” she announced. All the bugs clapped. Beetle clapped the loudest.

The medal for the prettiest bug … , continued Mantis, “ … goes to … Butterfly!” Everyone cheered. Beetle cheered the loudest.

The medal for the cleverest bug goes to … Spider!” announced Mantis. The crowd whooped. Beetle whooped even louder.

There was only one medal left. “The medal for the strongest bug goes to … Ant!” Mantis smiled. All the bugs yelled and whistled and drummed their feet on the ground. Beetle grinned from ear to ear. She was so happy for her friends!

When everyone had quietened down, Mantis said, “Finally, this year we have a special medal … the top prize, as voted for by all of you. This is the highest honour, the best award … She looked around. Then her large eyes settled on one particular bug. One completely ordinary, unremarkable, nothing-special-about-her bug. “The highest honour, the best award and the biggest medal goes to … Beetle.”

Beetle almost fell over in surprise. “M-m-me?” she stammered. “But … but I’m not the best at anything. I’m not special in any way,” Beetle didn’t understand. It must be a mistake, she thought. But all her friends were smiling at her, as if they knew something that she didn’t.

“Dear Beetle,” Mantis smiled. “The other bugs and I would like to award you this gold medal … for being the kindest bug amongst us.”

“You’re the best!” shouted Cockroach.

“You’re not ordinary at all,” said Butterfly, smiling.

“You are special!” said Spider.

“You are one of a kind, Beetle! The only one like you! Your talent is kindness,” explained Ant.

“… but anyone can be kind,” said Beetle, confused.

“Exactly, Beetle,” said Mantis. “Anyone can be kind, but only you choose to be kind all the time.”

Then Beetle’s friends picked her up, cheering as they carried her over their heads, all the way up to the top of the rock.

“Beetle had never felt so special, or so happy, in all her life. And all she could whisper was, “How kind all my friends are!”

Get story active!

★ Sometimes our gift is not about what we can do, but how we make others feel. What is your special talent?

★ Can you remember what each insect was good at? Make a list of each insect in the story. Next to each insect’s name, write down what they were good at.

★ Now make a list of all the people in your home, and write down what each one is good at, including you!
1. Ungatifilembisa yini kabusha letinihlovu temagama kuze wakhe emagama elihlapho netitselo Pasi naPiwai labatlibona emakele kalunzaba lekisi, “Superman wasemakele?”

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Can you unscramble the letters to make the names of the vegetables and fruit Pasi and Piwai saw at the market in the story The market Superman?

2. a) Ucabanga kutsi labantu la bafundzela kuphi bafundzela?
    b) Nyalwe indzawo lapho ucabanga kutsi Gogo na-Josh bafundzela kuyo!

(a)

(b) a) Where do you think these people were caught reading?
    b) Now draw the place where you think Gogo and Josh are reading!

Nal’ibali fun
Kwekutijabulisa KwakaNal’ibali
Nal’ibali ikhona kutsi ikukhutsate futsi ikwesekele. Tsintshana natsi nobe ngayiphi lenye yaletindlela leti: Nal’ibali is here to motivate and support you. Contact us in any of these ways: