April Spotlight: Encouraging reluctant or struggling readers

This month we’ll be looking at ways to encourage reluctant or struggling readers and we’ll be discussing:

*What makes someone start reading for pleasure?*

Please share your thoughts on the LiteracyActionNet FORUM by clicking [here](#).

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**YOUNG PEOPLE - EXAMPLE OF THE MONTH**

The ’First News Challenge’ was aimed at boys who were below their chronological reading age and in receipt of free school meals to see if it was possible to encourage them to read with family members outside school. ‘Boy-friendly’ reading materials were chosen, namely the weekly newspaper ‘First News’... There was a family event at the end of each half-term when there was a quiz in the form of a ‘Have I got news for you’ headlines round to decide the final winner who received a year’s subscription to the magazine of their choice. ([more about this project](#))

Click [here](#) for more examples of projects engaging reluctant or struggling readers.

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**INFORMATION**

Practitioners running literacy projects make choices over the types of materials to use. Some resources and activities are based on textbooks or worksheets which are intended for use only in the classroom. Others, like First News Challenge, are ‘authentic’, in that they directly relate to the world outside the classroom.

Click [here](#) for more information on using authentic materials and activities to improve literacy.

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**ADULTS - EXAMPLE OF THE MONTH**

The **Positive Action through Learning Support (PALS)** scheme supports offenders serving community sentences to gain literacy and numeracy qualifications. Sessions are held in probation offices and are delivered to groups or one-to-one if the learner is severely dyslexic. ([more about this project](#))

Click [here](#) for more examples of projects engaging reluctant or struggling readers.
INFORMATION

Dyslexia is a disability that affects the skills involved in accurate and fluent word reading and spelling. A range of different methods and skills may be more effective with dyslexic students.

Click here for ways to identify and assist dyslexic students.

YOUR EXAMPLE

Do you know of or are you involved in a project, such as the examples above, that encourages reluctant or struggling readers? Please let us know:

- What did the project aim to achieve?
- What activities did the project involve?
- What would you say the project has achieved?
- Has the project been assessed or evaluated?
- Are there any other aspects of the project you would like to tell us about?

Please reply to this email or email amyd@lemosandcrane.co.uk

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Tricia Millar, Trainer and Developer, That Reading Thing

What's the most important thing you've learnt?
‘...That very reluctant learners respond to high expectations in a safe and friendly environment.'

What inspires you?
'The power of relationship. Untapped potential. Anyone who grabs a good idea and runs with it.' (more)

NEWS

- From the EEF Working with Partners Update: The EEF and Nominet Trust are partnering together in a new funding round seeking proposals for projects that use digital technology to improve the attainment of disadvantaged pupils

- The John Betjeman Poetry Competition for Young People: 'This new prize is a great way to honour a great poet while simultaneously introducing young people to the thrill of poetry.' Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy

SURVEY

Engagement Action Research - Project Overview from the Kaizen Partnership... (more)