Fun Reading Practice?: Strategies and Evidence from a One-on-One Reading Intervention

Abstract
Based on the Response to Intervention (RTI) model, about 5% - 10% of students do not respond to generalized or small group instruction. These students need direct instruction delivered with an individualized format during which they receive an increased number of opportunities to practice with immediate corrective feedback. However, these practice sessions can be met with resistance. This is moreso the reality among at-risk readers and boys. In this presentation, creative, engaging, multisensory approaches useful for practicing reading skills will be discussed and demonstrated. These approaches are useful for teachers, school psychologists, interventionists, and parents.

Presentation Background
Thomas was a first-grader who scored in the At-risk range on the benchmark assessment for Nonsense Word Fluency (NWF) on the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS). He was able to pronounce 4 Correct Letter Sounds and no whole words. His teacher reported that although he received small group instruction, he did not respond positively. She indicated that although he knew most of the alphabet letters and their sounds, he could not blend them to make words. Consequently, he could not work independently.

A one-on-one intervention was done with Thomas over 4 weeks. Sessions of 20 - 30 minutes were held for 3 to 4 days per week. The list of hands-on game below were used to teach and practice reading skills. At the end of the intervention, he was able to read up to 26 Correct Letter Sounds and 7 whole words. He needed lesson guidance during small group instruction time and could work independently.

The following games are fun and engaging. They allowed Thomas to practice his reading skills. He looked forward to our sessions together. The games can be made with little effort and few resources by both teachers and parents.

List of Games

Board games with dice
- race to the pond
- snail race
- roll-a-dice

Card games -
- Going to the movie sentences (with math practice)
- Sentence/picture match (comprehension practice)

Movement
- race car blending
- elkonin box

Combine cards & board
- race to the finish line (yes/no game with comprehension practice)