

Light the Spark



Motivation isn't built through reminders or rewards — it's built through connection.

The Secret Behind Motivation

Kids don't fall in love with reading because they're told to. They fall in love because stories connect to who they are. When a child's interests meet the right book, curiosity takes over — and learning becomes effortless.

The Four Sparks of Motivation

Building motivation isn't about pushing harder; it's about noticing what pulls your child forward.



Spot the Spark

Observe your child's spontaneous questions, play themes, and favorite topics to pinpoint authentic curiosities.



Match Books to Passions

Select stories, characters, and informational texts that mirror those sparks, layering in new but related ideas to gently expand interests.



Offer Choice & Voice

Provide 2–3 book options, let your child pick the order, and invite them to set reading goals; ownership boosts intrinsic motivation.



Read the Engagement Cues

Notice body language, energy shifts, and comments; pivot quickly when attention wanes.

Activities to Deepen Understanding

Observe, record, and respond to your child's reading interests in real time.

1

The Interest Inventory

Spend 10 minutes observing your child during free play. Capture what they pretend, question, watch, collect, and talk about repeatedly.

2

The Book-Matching Challenge

Using your top 3 interests, find one book per interest this week. Ask your librarian, search online, and look beyond fiction to informational texts.

3

The Choice Board

Create a visual choice board for your next reading session. Choose 3 books, let your child pick which to read first, and invite them to rate each one.

4

The Engagement Detective

During your next three sessions, watch for engagement cues. Learn to spot when to keep going and when to pivot.

Watch for Engagement Cues

Become a detective and respond to what your child's body and behavior are telling you.

✓ Keep Going!

- ✓ Leaning in
- ✓ Asking questions
- ✓ Making predictions
- ✓ Laughing or reacting
- ✓ Asking to continue

⚠ Time to Pivot

- ⚠ Looking away frequently

- ⚠ Fidgeting or squirming
- ⚠ One-word answers
- ⚠ Asking "Are we done yet?"
- ⚠ Sudden need for bathroom/water

Remember: Interests Evolve

Stay curious about what lights your child up — because motivation, like any spark, needs oxygen, play, and love to keep burning.