

# Make the Connection

## Sustained Silent Reading and Recreational Reading

### Keep It Simple – SSR

Do you have a plan for Free Voluntary Reading (FVR) for your school? If not, the reading doctor recommends a regular dose of Sustained Silent Reading (SSR) for your students and staff. Research shows that giving children enough time to read allows them to get past the sounding out and searching for meaning stage and become fluent. It also allows them to begin to enjoy free reading as recreation. The more they read, the better they comprehend and improve vocabulary and fluency. Just what the doctor ordered!

**Sustained Silent Reading** is a short period of time (10-15 minutes) when the students and staff read silently from materials they have chosen themselves before the SSR begins. Students do not report on what they read and the teacher/librarian keeps no records. Sound simple? It is.

### Implementing SSR in the Library

Try scheduling each class in your school into the library once a month for SSR. Develop a set of rules that work for you such as:

- Choose your materials and get plenty to read before SSR starts
- No moving around or talking during SSR
- Get comfy before reading starts

Remind students of the rules each time you conduct SSR. Once everyone gets materials and a comfy spot to read in, begin reading. That means the teacher/librarian too. Read for about 10 minutes and then call time. How simple is that?

**Why implement SSR?** It is good for kids! It works! Research shows SSR improves both attitude and skills.

- It improves reading scores.
- It soothes savage beasts.
- It builds life-long readers
- It helps develop vocabulary, fluency, comprehension.

What more could you ask of ten minutes of precious instructional time?

**Who Can Do SSR?** SSR is developmentally appropriate for second grade through adults. Start first graders with a simple quiet reading time, seated at tables with a large selection of books

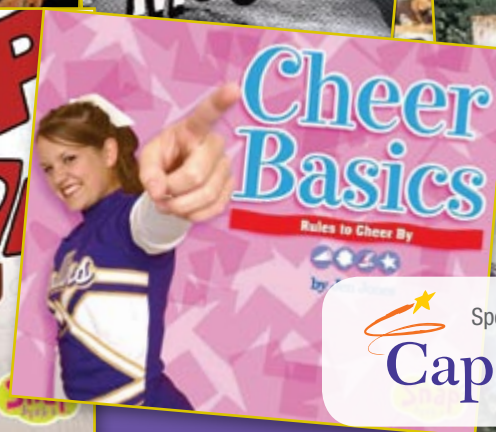
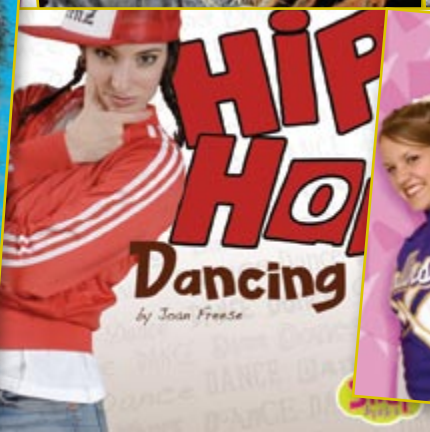
on them and try about a 5 minute session with them.

**What do we need to get started?** Be sure to stock your shelves with some rip-roaringly good books that capture and hold kid's imaginations like high-low books from Capstone Press:

- *Moto X Freestyle*
- *Cheer Basics: Rules to Cheer By*
- *Hip-Hop Dancing*
- *Disaster in the Mountains!: Colby Coombs' Story of Survival*
- *The World's Most Dangerous Bugs*
- *Spy Gear*
- *Dragon Legends*

Read more about the media specialist's role of promoting reading in *School Library Management, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition*, Judi Repman and Gail K. Dickinson, Editors, published by Linworth Publishing, Inc.

Then sit back, read, and watch reading skills skyrocket! ■



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