

The Good News

ONE ANSWER TO AMERICA'S CRISIS IN EDUCATION

“Only the educated are free.”

Epictetus (55-135 AD), Greek sage and philosopher

Every day there's bad news about education. Shocking as the news stories are, we've become numb to our education crisis. Falling test scores and tragic drop-out rates are such “old news” that we hardly notice any more. After 50 years of education not improving and in some ways getting worse, we no longer listen to our politicians' promises. We seem to have lost our belief that our schools will ever change. Deep down inside, we are fearful for our children's future. All the bad news isn't helping us do better, so I'm starting this book with good news.

There is an Answer.

Reading a book with your child the *Point to Reading*[™] way works wonders. I have done this with several 6 year old boys and gotten dramatic results which surprise people. Already many parents have gotten similar great results.

*“Don't let what you cannot do
interfere with what you can do.”*

John Wooden (1910-2010)

One of the greatest coaches in college basketball

The Answer is “One”

Point to Reading is written for one parent to read a book with one child. *PTR*'s purpose is to build a love of reading. Its goal is to bring each child to his highest reading ability in the shortest amount of time. All this is based on these beliefs:

1. Our children are smarter than we imagine or allow.
2. Reading can be learned in months, instead of years.
3. Children learn faster one-on-one with a coach than in a large group.

4. The focus of learning to read should be the “love of reading and understanding the story” instead of a mechanical ability to read words.
5. Children generally like what they are good at, and become good at what they like.
6. The time to build a love of reading is BEFORE entering school, where children face judgment and humiliation because they aren’t “good at it”.
7. You, the parent, are the best person for the job. No one will have more desire for your child to succeed than you. Also, there’s no one your child trusts and wants to spend time with more than his own parent.

This book ***was not*** written to change our schools, or to find someone to blame for the mess we’re in. I don’t believe the answer will be found in passing new laws, or telling teachers and students that what they’re doing isn’t good enough. Our kids must be led to excellence by us, the adults, doing what must be done.

This book was written to put the power for building your child’s education and future back in your hands. If we will do what it takes to make sure our children succeed, we will build a new hope for the future. The message of *PTR* is the answer to this crisis in education. That answer is found in the love of reading.

THE PROBLEM WITH STATISTICS

Scientific studies, school systems, and governments look at life through statistics and percentages. Scientific studies have to be done with thousands of subjects for their results to be accepted by the scientific community. Our school systems deal with thousands of students. Our government must think in terms of millions. You, the parent, care about one number, one statistic—ONE.

If you have more than one child, you still care about the number ONE. You want every ONE of your children to succeed. You didn’t have extra children to increase your chances of success—to beat the odds. Your kids aren’t a statistic. Each ONE is a living, breathing human being and it breaks your heart every time any of them has a failure of any kind.

When the government’s statistics say 20% of American school children will not graduate with a high school diploma, the experts will call it a ***HUGE SUCCESS*** if they can lower that statistic to 15%. If your child happened to be ONE of the 15% which didn’t make it, my guess is you probably wouldn’t be having a party.

The problem with statistics and percentages is that
the number ONE is not important.

With *PTR*, the only number that matters is ONE.
ONE child, ONE parent, ONE future.

Point to Reading is not designed for 10,000 schools with 250,000 teachers and 4 million students. It's not for a classroom of 25 students. It works when ONE parent reads ONE book with ONE child.

Point to Reading has ONE goal—THE LOVE OF READING
and ONE focus—UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

When completed, there is ONE result—each child able to read any book and understand it; each child ready to excel in school, and benefit from being a person who loves to read.

The only thing necessary for *Point to Reading* to succeed is ONE PARENT who will commit 30 minutes, 3 or 4 times a week for 6 to 8 months with ONE CHILD. This guarantees to make a difference in your child's life (and yours).

What difference can this possibly make?

For one child, your child, it may be the difference between success and failure.

If a whole class began 2nd grade reading well and ready to learn, might that be one teacher who could teach?

If a school were full of kids who love to read, who read their textbooks and understand the questions on tests, might that school be at the top in the nation?

If all our schools were full of children who loved to learn because they had the most important skill necessary for their success, would our children be anything but NUMBER ONE in the world?

*What would America be like if our children read books
as much as they now watch TV?*