

# The Breakthrough Conversation Guide

*Your first step to helping your child become a better reader.*



Presented By  
Spark Thinking

You already know that your child is bright. He may be a gifted artist, musician, or athlete who is just having a hard time doing well in school right now. You're frustrated and need to find a simple way to get to the bottom of the issues, but you don't even know where to begin. Having a conversation to find out why is a good place to start. It lets your child know that you understand the struggles he is going through right now and you want to help. That's why I created The Breakthrough Conversation Guide.

Now is the time to have a meaningful conversation with your child about how he feels about reading, what's happening in class, and how he would like to feel in any learning environment.

The goal is to discover more from your child's point of view (you may be surprised what you'll find out).

Let's get started.



# HERE ARE SOME IDEAS TO HELP YOU GET THE CONVERSATION STARTED.

To get the best results, when you ask your child a question, allow him enough time to answer it please, please, please don't interrupt your child while he is talking).

I highly suggest writing down or even voice recording your child's responses so that you can review it later as you work on finding a solution.

## PARENT PROMPT:

Start the conversation by telling your child a story about a time when you felt as an adult you learned new things and that made you feel smart. You can recall how smart you felt and the confidence you had when you contributed to conversations with family and friends. Your child wants to feel smart and have that same confidence in class and among his peers.

When you ask your child the questions below, let your child answer and you just **LISTEN AND RESPOND** with any one of these answers (the goal is to let your child do most of the talking and allow him time to express himself):

- *"I see"*
- *"Really, tell me a little more about that"*
- *"I never knew that"*
- *"That's interesting to hear"*
- *"I learned a lot from you, thanks"*
- *"Sure, we can figure out a way to solve this problem"*

Having such a meaningful conversation with your child would give you an idea of the kind of help to seek for him.

### Say:

"I noticed you've been having some challenges with school and I want us to talk about what's going on and how we can help you overcome them. You're not in any trouble. I just want to understand what you need to raise your grades. So I'm going to ask you some questions".



# QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD

- I see that you don't like to read. Are the words challenging for you?
- Do you guess at a lot of words or do you try to figure it out, if you don't really know it?
- Is it hard for you to read a word with more than 1 syllable?
- When you hear a regular word, can you tell how many sounds are in the words?
- Is it easy for you to answer questions about what you've read (like the main idea), or what may happen next in the story?
- I know you have to read and write a lot in school. What's the hardest part about that for you? When is it fun or easy? How can I help to make this easier for you?

## YOU CAN FINISH THE CONVERSATION WITH:

***"Can you think of some ideas to help us solve this problem?" (Ask this question if your child is in 3rd grade and up)***

***"I would like to get you a reading instructor to help you learn how to read better. What do you think? I'm sure that would make a big difference."***

How do you feel about (finally) having this kind of conversation with your child? I hope you're relieved! And what information did you gather to help you, help your child overcome his/her reading challenges?



*"... it has now been shown that the brain can be rewired and that struggling children can become skilled readers."*

***- Dr. Sally Shaywitz***

# A FEW TIPS TO HELP YOU MAKE READING FUN



## Set Up A Reading Area and Time

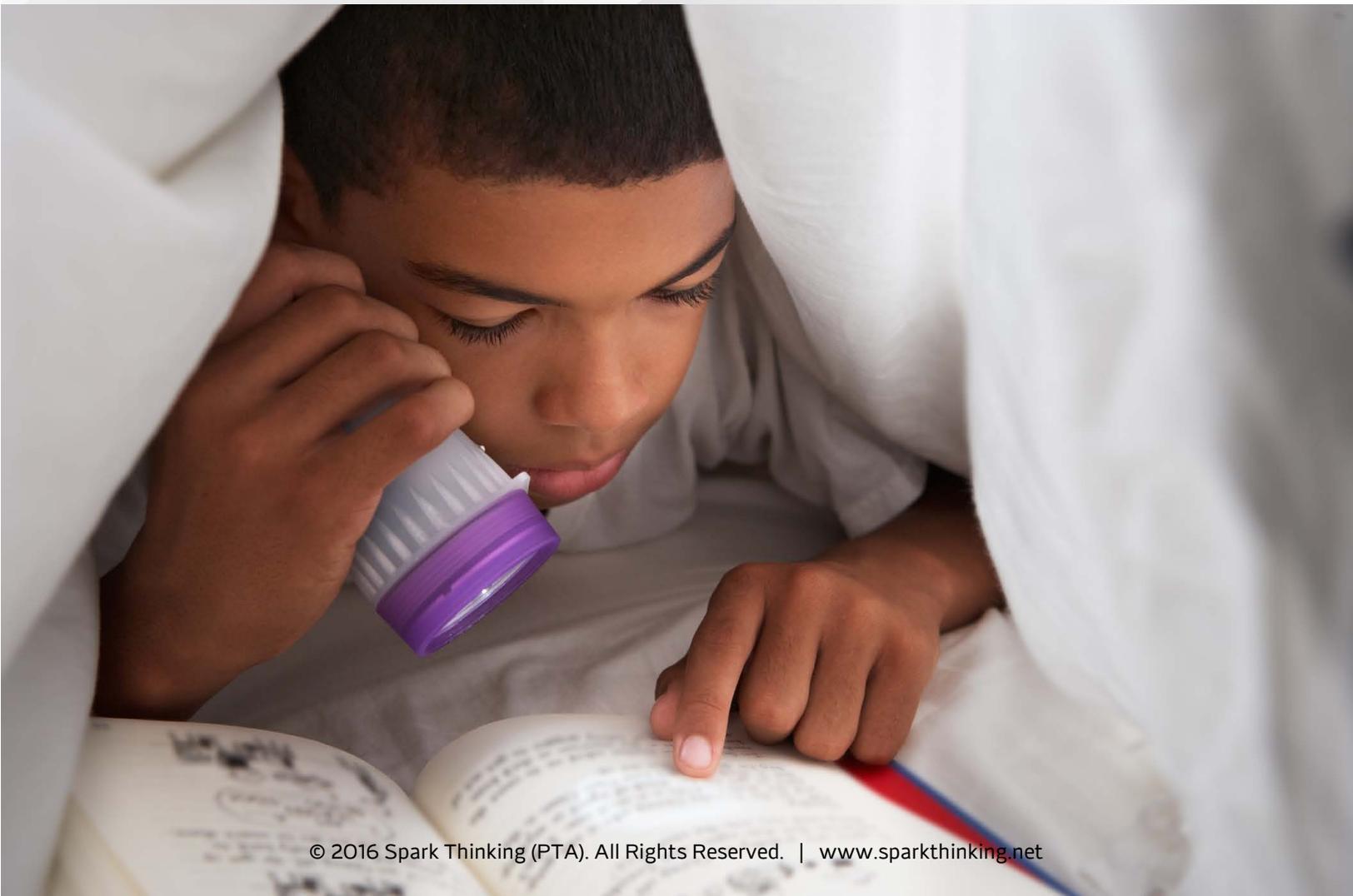
It's always better to set a special reading time and place in your house. If you can set a cozy reading corner in your house for reading time, even better! That way the brain is trained and primed for that activity and it will take less time to dive in and stay focused.

Get your child involved in creating his/her reading schedule. Start by reading 15-20 minutes, 3-5 days every week. Then, gradually increase the time and days as you see fit. **The only way your child is going to get better at reading or develop a love for reading, is by reading.**

## Choose the Right Reading Materials

- You don't have to buy new reading materials. However, I highly suggest that you invest a few dollars and buy new reading materials if the current books are not a good fit for your child's interest or reading level.

- Invest in books with and without pictures. You can find lots of options at [www.highnoonbooks.com](http://www.highnoonbooks.com) or [www.epsbooks.com](http://www.epsbooks.com).
- The books you choose should be at your child's independent reading level. This means, your child should be able to read independently with about 95% accuracy at this level.
- Make reading an interesting event by having your child read with a goal in mind. Challenge your child to discover something new every time he reads and have him tell you about it.
- Take turns reading alternate paragraphs if your child is in 1st - 2nd grade, or alternate pages if your child is in 3rd - 4th grade.
- Encourage your child to read phrases (scanning and reading up to 5 words in one breath or in a conversational tone) instead of word-by-word. This is a skill you must model and practice with your child.



## ***If your child:***

- Has an IEP or has been diagnosed with a Specific Learning Disability;
- Is always struggling or is easily frustrated with reading very basic words correctly and fluently;
- Makes errors such as guessing, mispronunciation, and omission or additions, but doesn't recognize that they are making errors;
- Has a hard time reading a word within 5 seconds or less or needs help;
- Has tantrum, cries, or avoids reading altogether;
- Makes up their own story while reading;
- Is only interested in having books with pictures, so they can make up their own story by looking at the pictures;



these are warning signs that you should take seriously. These persistent issues may mean your child is lacking some essential reading skills.

**It may be time to hire an instructor who specializes in teaching reading using the Orton-Gillingham approach. I can help! Schedule your *FREE* consultation now.**

**Remember, reading struggles will not go away without direct instruction to address the underlying cause.**

It's very important that you take action right away so that both you and your child can begin to experience less stress and more success with schoolwork.

I'd like to know how your conversation with your child panned out. Email me at [info@sparkthinking.net](mailto:info@sparkthinking.net) to share your experience and / or results with me. I can't wait to hear from you.

Feeling somewhat overwhelmed and need additional support?  
We can help your child break through the struggles, improve his reading skills, and make better grade?

**BOOK YOUR FREE CONSULTATION NOW!**

## **THE PROOF**

“Because of poor phonics and reading skills, my daughter was making bad grades and in danger of failing the 1st grade. **After working with Spark Thinking, she is able to sound things out. She is finally reading and has the confidence to want to read more.**

I don't exactly know what they do at Spark Thinking but what ever they do they are the bomb at it. I've seen great improvement in both of my children. When I thought it was too late, Ms. Sylvia reassured me that it wasn't. And she was correct every time. She really takes pride in getting children to where they need to be.”

– Dr. Marnita L., Mother of two reading students

## MY PASSION IS TO HELP STUDENTS BECOME SKILLED READERS

I'm Sylvia Adjeso, and for the past 18+ years I've been helping students learn to read & spell, comprehend and think critically, focus, do math, and study with ease so they can make better grades.

As an interventionist, I love using creative approaches and developing personalized learning plans based on each student's unique needs and personality.

I love reading and learning about cutting-edge educational research and teaching strategies, and cooking! You can reach me at 770-716-0224 or [info@sparkthinking.net](mailto:info@sparkthinking.net).

