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Child refuses to read? What you can do

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Your 10-year-old daughter refuses to read for pleasure. Will she outgrow this?

First, find out if her hesitancy is skill-based.

"Nobody likes to do things for pleasure that they're not good at," said Gabrielle Miller, executive director of Raising a Reader, a national program aimed at increasing literacy skills in elementary-age children. "It could be that it's not enjoyable because she's working to decode everything."

If her teachers and grades indicate she's reading at her grade level without struggle, it's time to help make reading come alive for her, Miller said.

"There are things parents can do with a child -- read the comics, have the child read to the family dog -- that make reading more fun," she said. "Sometimes, parents cringe at books that tie in to something their kids saw on TV, but kids like them." The specific material isn't as important as inspiring excitement.

Pay attention to your own habits, too.

"Start a positive routine, where they see you turn off the TV and sit down to read," Miller said. Above all, be patient.

"Keep trying, because it's never too late."