

Encouraging Achievement
By Carolyn Coil

Encouraging Achievement is a great resource for teachers. It answers the questions teachers ask about motivating our students, but never get a clear answer to. This book is a must for new teachers and as a tool to teach our seasoned teachers about motivating students.

As a TSS (teacher support staff) person at my school, this is definitely a resource I will share with my new teachers. It offers so many practical strategies teachers can use to help underachieving students. The book opens with a list of characteristics that could help teachers identify the students that may need encouragement. Two other chapters that caught my eye are the chapters that discuss the role of the family and dealing with the problems of society and pop culture. My school is 90% socio-economically challenged, so many of our students have low self esteem. I found many helpful activities throughout the book to help encourage student learning and achievement. We also have a problem with parent participation at our school. This book offers several strategies teachers can use to get parents involved in encouraging their children.

Would I use this book with my gifted students? Yes! Many of my gifted students are often bored with the curriculum set up for them by the “higher ups” which forces me to bring activities into the classroom from other great sources such as this one. I would also love to use this book for a staff development to help other teachers in my building understand why children are underachievers and how they can help them.

As teachers, part of our jobs is to learn as much as we can about our students so that we can reach them where they are, and then motivate them to achieve. Many students are eager to learn, and my job is to be as creative as possible to make learning interesting and challenging for my students. This book provides excellent strategies and activities to help my underachieving students.

Leandra Roberts