

Encouraging Achievement
By Carolyn Coil

The purpose of this book is to help educators encourage achievement in students. This is encouraged by providing the educator with suggested strategies and ideas that can be implemented so that the teacher can encourage achievement. The teacher reflection pages serve as good motivators and a think tank to make one really evaluate what it means to encourage. The book does an excellent job of identifying the traits and characteristics of students who need to be encouraged that would help another individual identify such a child.

The review of the brain and how it works is essential in helping one understand why certain strategies work for some and not for others. Her development of the different types of memory and how they can be used is well developed and written in a useful format. I particularly like the reflection pages because they provide an opportunity for the reader to practice some of the ideas and strategies prior to putting them into use in the real world.

The author develops very clear and well thought out strategies on how the schools can help to become encouragers. The suggested strategies are very valid and introduced at levels that allow all students to be helped. Documents provided for teacher use to guide one through various strategies are well written and easy to use. The book is organized so that the factors leading to underachievement are identified first, with strategies to rebuild self-esteem following, and finally strategies to encourage and continue to build confidence and self-esteem in the underachieving student.

I would use this book as a daily resource and encourage others to purchase and use it as well. The book is well organized with just enough information and documents to aid the reader/user to implement a plan for encouragement.

Sharon M. Mott