



EXTEND READING TRACKER

CASE 1

by Chris Parkin

SHAUN

The boy who could read but didn't

THE SITUATION

Aged 14 years, Shaun had a reading age (with comprehension) of 11 - 12 years.

He said his parents wanted him to read more at home. While he said he agreed with them he did not say it with much enthusiasm.

Consideration: While it was desirable that he read often, and for a reasonable length of time, the goal had to be realistic.

THE CONVERSATION

"How many days in a week should you do some reading?" I asked.

"Every day," responded Shaun.

"Okay. So how long should each daily session be?"

"One hour," he replied.

"So how much time are you currently spending on reading?"

"I used to read a lot when I was younger."

"But at the moment...?"

There was silence.

"Nothing at the moment, then?" I asked.

He nodded.

"Then, I think you should start with a goal of 3 sessions a week - 7 minutes each day."

There was visible relief on Shaun's face.

I added that it should be 3 daily sessions of 7 minutes, **NOT** one session of 21 minutes.

THE RESULTS

WEEK 1: Shaun had not only achieved his goal, he had passed it – a total of 40 minutes.

WEEK 2: The weekly goal could have been set at 40 minutes or more, but I advised that it should be for 30 minutes (10 minutes per day). He achieved his total goal time of 30 minutes but had done it in 2 days. He therefore hadn't achieved his weekly goal of 3 days.

WEEK 3: The goal was the same as Week 2 and he achieved it. He had wanted to have another 10 minutes added to each daily session, but I added only 5 more minutes (20 minutes a day).

WEEK 7: The goal was not achieved because of a family bereavement.

WEEK 12: The goal of 3 days a week for 30 minutes a day was easily achieved.

WHAT SHAUN READ

While increasing his reading time was initially of prime importance, consideration had to be given to what he read. Books of 200+ pages were daunting. The Tracker states that:

- *Almost any written material counts, as long as it has a reasonable amount of text.*
- *Don't use catalogues or pictures with captions.*

Shaun needed a variety of material that was short and not too difficult. He was told that he did not always have to read things from cover to cover.

He needed direction - especially in the first few weeks. Reading material was given to him (or titles suggested). This needed to suit his age and (initially) his interests.

Material included: joke books, short humorous stories, news, sports stories (fiction & non-fiction), vehicles, outdoor adventures (fiction & non-fiction).



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SHAUN

WEEKLY RECORDING EXAMPLES - 1st and 12th week

Because of the likelihood of more than one story a day sessions was altered to days

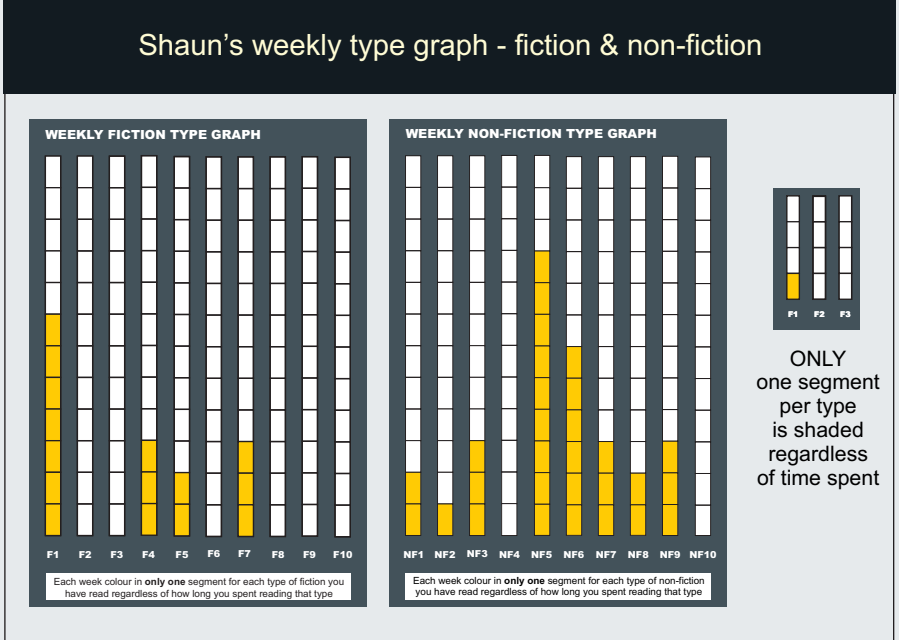
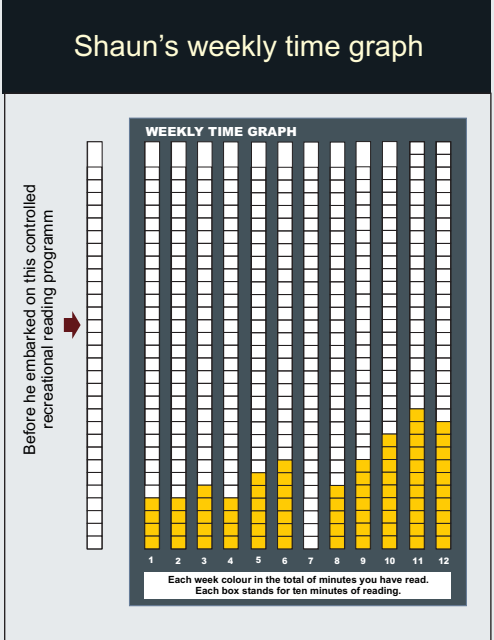
WEEK 1				
GOAL				
Number of sessions: 3		Minutes each session: 7		Total minutes for the week: 21
Date	Name of book/story	type	minutes	comment
3/4	Surfing in Raglan	NF7	10	magazine
6/4	Teen shot with airgun	NF5	5	news
6/4	The Spinners	F5	10	short story
7/4	The Spinners	F5	10	short story
7/4	Farmer injured by bull	NF5	5	news
HOW DID I DO? actual number of reading sessions: 3 actual minutes for Week 1: 40				
EVALUATION COMMENT: I am pleased				

WEEK 12				
GOAL				
Number of sessions: 3		Minutes each session: 30		Total minutes for the week: 90
Date	Name of book/story	type	minutes	comment
24/5	Give Us a Hand	F1	25	novel
24/5	Big Rigs - article	NF6	10	magazine
26/5	Give Us a Hand	F1	30	
27/5	Shock in Breakfast Cereal	NF5	15	news
27/5	Give Us a Hand	F1	20	
HOW DID I DO? actual number of reading sessions: 3 actual minutes for week 12: 100				
EVALUATION COMMENT:				

Week 1: Shaun exceeded his weekly goal of 21 minutes. (Read for a total of 40 minutes.)

Week 12: The goal of 3 times a week for 30 minutes a session was easily achieved.

Initially, Shaun recorded the date, title and time spent reading. He was assisted with determining the type of text he had read. He was also assisted with completing the graphs. These were filled in at the end of a seven day period.



Plenty of advice and encouragement was given, e.g. **Don't be a time watcher** - keep reading (and enjoying what you read) until you feel you need to stop, then check the time spent. Small inaccuracies in timing or determining type wasn't going to affect the overall outcome. Shaun realised recreational reading was possible and achievable for him - that reading could become a habit. No prizes (bribes) were necessary. His success was sufficient.