



The Just-Right Challenge

The very best Stretch Goal is what we call the Just-Right Challenge. When kids are working at just the right level of challenge, it's fun.

Read the research from Dr. Deborah Stipek, Dean of the Stanford School of Education, in her book *Motivated Minds*.

A group of children were given a pre-test on their skill level with respect to 13 different puzzles. Then the children were left alone and told they could play with any puzzle.

Children who started working on puzzles that were too easy had bored looks on their faces. When they got to the "just-right puzzle," they started to smile! All the children ended up picking the puzzle that was just one level higher than their proficiency level. Dr. Stipek calls this the "Just-Right Challenge."