

Comprehension

Good readers have a purpose for reading. Good readers think actively as they read. Using their experiences, their knowledge of vocabulary and language structure, and their knowledge of reading strategies, good readers make sense of the text and know how to get the most out of it.

(Put Reading First pg. 48)

Activities that strengthen reading comprehension:

As you read with your child...

- Make predictions and connections. Before reading, discuss the title and illustrations. Ask your child what he or she thinks the story or article may be about. While reading, stop and ask your child to confirm or revise his/her prediction. Further, connect what is happening in the story to similar experiences your child may have had. Continue making predictions and connections throughout the text.
- Encourage your child to use his or her imagination to visualize what is happening. You can model this by saying, "I'm going to close my eyes for a moment and picture the crowded city described here...I can imagine how noisy and busy it is. No wonder the character feels lost and helpless. Do you remember when we visited New York City last summer? Did you feel the same way?"
- Help your child form questions as you read together. Pause occasionally and wonder aloud. You might say, "What lesson do you think the author could be trying to teach?" or "I wonder why the older sister is worried about moving to the country."
- Occasionally pause to summarize what has been read so far. Say, "Before we read the next chapter, I want to be certain I understand what has happened so far. Let's see, the father and son aren't getting along..." Invite your child to help you continue.

- Ask your child to draw inferences--to read "between the lines" to better understand the author's message. Point out, for example, that the author might not directly say that a character is sad about the death of his dog, however, the actions of the characters demonstrate that this is so.
- Discuss what has been read. You might, for example, discuss why the main character made the choices he did, why the story might have ended the way it did, what parts were especially enjoyable, and so on.
- Ask the questions below to focus your child on the important parts of the story.
 - Who are the main characters in the story?
 - Where and when does the story take place?
 - What is the problem in the story?
 - What were the main events in the story?
 - How was the problem solved?

Additional activities if your child is reading independently...

- Take turns reading pages or chapters. This gives you an on-going opportunity to hear how well your child is reading. This provides an opportunity to practice using the strategies listed above.
- Read the same book that your child is reading. Spend a few moments discussing each chapter after it has been read.
- Read short but high-interest newspaper or magazine articles at dinner and discuss them as a family.

Read aloud to your child. For suggestions on what to read and how to make the most of reading aloud see: www.trelease-on-reading.com

Websites:

For Parents;

Read Aloud Booklist: <http://www.readaloudamerica.org/booklist.htm>

Jim Trelease's Information on Reading Aloud: www.trelease-on-reading.com

http://lincs.ed.gov/publications/pdf/Dads_Playbook.pdf

http://lincs.ed.gov/publications/pdf/Shining_Stars_First_Grader.pdf

http://lincs.ed.gov/publications/pdf/Shining_Stars_Second_Third_Grader.pdf

http://lincs.ed.gov/publications/pdf/Literacy_Home.pdf

http://lincs.ed.gov/publications/pdf/reading_pre.pdf

For Students:

<http://sbsd.org//academics.cfm?subpage=102234>