

Reading Comprehension Tips for Parents

Reading with children and helping them practice specific reading strategies can dramatically improve their ability to comprehend. Here are a few important reading strategies aimed at improving comprehension:

Reread

Good readers will reread a piece several times until they are satisfied they understand it. Rereading is simple, but effective.

Make Connections

Text-to-Text: Does this story relate to another story you have read? What characters from other stories remind you of X?

Text-to-Self: How can you relate to this story? Have you ever felt the way X does?

Text-to-World: How does this story relate to 'a current event'?

Summarize

What were the main ideas in this story/chapter? Can you describe what happened in this story/chapter using only three sentences?

Predict

What do you think will happen next? What do think X will do next? How do you think this problem will be resolved? Why do you think so? What did you read in the story that lead you to this prediction?

Visualize

Close your eyes. Describe the setting. What does X look like? Try sketching a highly descriptive reading passage.

Clarify/Ask Questions

Encourage your child to ask questions when confused about a character or the plot. What just happened? Why did X behave that way?

Listen to your child read aloud everyday. Strong fluency helps to foster strong comprehension. Talk to your child about book characters, what happened in the book, and what he/she liked best about the book.