

Reading Strategies

Ways in which you can help your child to read



Reading procedures for each new book:

- Have your child read the title or read it to him/her.
- Have your child look through the pictures and talk about what is happening in them.
- Ask your child to predict what the story will be about.

Strategies to promote when reading:

- Encourage your child to think about meaning. If s/he reads a word incorrectly and it is not meaningful, ask “Did that make sense?” (Wait until s/he has finished reading to the end of the sentence before you ask.) Have him/her reread the sentence so that it does make sense.
- Help him to be aware of punctuation. Encourage him to pause at periods and take a breath. (Periods and commas help break up sentences into smaller parts, so making them easier to read.)
- If your child doesn’t know a word, encourage him/her to read to the end of the sentence. Then have him/her go back and use the initial sound of the word, plus picture clues and/or the meaning of the sentence, to figure out the word.
- If s/he still doesn’t know the word, have him/her cover over the suffix (if there is one). This shortens the word and makes it easier to read. Examples of suffixes are: -ed, -ing, -ly, -er, -s.
- Or encourage him/her to find a smaller, familiar word within the unknown word (example: candy, reminder)
- If s/he still doesn’t know the word, let him/her sound it out or just tell it to him/her.

By listening to your child read and by promoting the use of the reading strategies, you will help your child to become a better and more independent reader. 😊

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Before reading

Prediction

- Read the title, look through the pictures (if it's a story) or look at the subheadings and diagrams (if it's a textbook) and predict what the story/text is about.
- In novels, when a chapter ends on an exciting note, guess what will happen next.

During reading

1. Monitoring for meaning

- If you read a word or phrase that doesn't make sense, stop!
- Do not carry on reading.
- Go back and reread the sentence or paragraph so that it does make sense.

2. Awareness/use of punctuation

- Punctuation is an aid to reading. Periods and commas help break up a sentence into smaller parts - making it easier to read.
- Pause at commas and periods. If you are reading out loud, take a breath at periods and then carry on.

3. Use of context clues

- If you come to a word you don't know, skip the word and read on to the end of the sentence. Then, go back and use the pictures and/or the context of the sentence, plus the initial letter(s) of the word. Example: "blank" or "something" for any unknown word.

(Example: The police arrested the thief.)

"blank"

4. Cover over word endings

- If you still cannot figure out the unknown word, cover over the suffix (if there is one). This shortens the word and makes it easier to read.
- Examples of common suffixes are: -s, -ed, -ing, -er, -ly, -tion, -ness.

5. Look for a smaller, familiar word within the unknown word

- Example: candy, reminder

6. Difficulty with names

- If you have a problem reading a name (especially in silent reading), make up your own name or just use the initial(s).

7. Sounding out

- Sound out words only as a last resort. Sounding out words often slows you down and can destroy the meaning of what you are reading.

8. Ask for help

- If none of the strategies work, ask someone to help you.