

Reading at Home with Your Child

Things to do with your child when you read together:



Before Reading

Survey and preview the book by examining features such as the title, pictures, photographs, and charts.

The title is _____. What do you think it means?

Let's check out the pictures. Wow, what is this?

Set a purpose for reading the text by thinking about the subject matter.

If we read this, we will find out _____.

Make predictions and ask questions about the story before reading it.

What do you think this story is about?

What makes you think that?

Make connections to the text from prior knowledge and experiences.

Examples:

What do you know about _____?

Have you ever heard of a _____?

During Reading

Listen to models of fluent reading.

Read to your child frequently. Use lots of expression!

Read familiar text at a rate that is conversational and consistent.

If your child reads in a "choppy" manner, practice reading a small part of the text several times until it becomes smooth.

Reread and self-correct while reading.

If your child doesn't stop to correct their mistakes which clearly changed the meaning of what was being read, don't interrupt right away. Wait until the end of a paragraph or page, and then ask questions. If your child isn't paying attention to the story and is simply "saying the words," stop frequently to discuss what is going on with the story or article.

A strategic reader should always reread a confusing part to correct misread words or to clarify understanding.

Decode words automatically.

Revisit words mispronounced.

Use word context clues, sentence structure, and visual clues to guide self-correction.

Let's read this sentence again and see if we can figure out what the word _____ means.

Increase sight words read fluently.

(This occurs naturally by reading a lot.)

Demonstrate appropriate use of phrasing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend to sentence patterns and structures that signal meaning in text. Use punctuation cues to guide meaning and expression. Use pacing and intonation to convey meaning and expression. Adjust intonation and pitch appropriately. 	<div> intonation - <i>emphasis on certain words</i> pitch - <i>rise and fall of spoken voice</i> </div>
Reread the difficult part slowly and carefully. Let's read this part again.	
Use own words to restate the difficult part. I think it means that.....	
Read on and revisit the difficult part. Let's go back and see if it makes more sense now.	
Look back through the text to search for connections between and among ideas. Did she seem mad at the beginning? I can't remember what she said exactly, so let's check it out.	
Make, confirm, or adjust predictions. Wow! You were right about the boy being sorry about eating so much chocolate. He is really sick of it. What do you think he will do about the problem?	
Periodically, summarize while reading. What has happened so far?	
Periodically, paraphrase important ideas or information. The Indians had to return the boy to his real pioneer family, but the pioneer family didn't seem like they were going to tolerate his Indian ways by some of the things they said about Indians.	
Visualize what was read for deeper understanding. Can you picture what the girl saw when she entered the cave for the first time?	

After Reading

Discuss reactions to and ideas/information gained from reading experiences. I can't believe that the boy in the story built a clubhouse that was only big enough for three people. Do you think he did it on purpose?
Explain personal connections to the ideas or information in the text. I visited a museum once, but I didn't see a suit of armor like the one in the story.

- The key purpose for reading with your child is to help your child to become more fluent, strategic, and enthusiastic about reading as well as to spend quality time together!!!!
- When your child reads to you:
 - Does he/she sound choppy? (not fluent)
 - Does he/she skip punctuation? (poor phrasing)
 - Does he/she read without expression? (robotic reading)
 - Does he/she read too fast or too slowly? (rate)
- Ask your child to tell you, in their own words, what the story or article is about.
- Children should read as much as possible during vacation periods and weekends.
- All students should reread books or parts of chapters to clarify understanding and to increase fluency.
- Consider making public library visits a habit.