

Reading Comprehension Strategies

This month, I am going to talk about reading comprehension strategies. As children move into older grades, the focus shifts from 'sounding out' words to comprehending what has been read. This can be a bit overwhelming at first and it is easier if it is broken down into chunks first. Here are some strategies to practice at home as your child reads to you or silently.

7 strategies to improve your reading comprehension skills

- Improve your vocabulary. ...(Pick out new and interesting words to study further. Look up the meaning, whether it is a noun, verb, adjective, adverb. Does it have a prefix and/or suffix? How has that changed the meaning of the base word?)
- Come up with questions about the text you are reading. ...(graphic organizers can help!)
- Use context clues. ...(The context is what is happening so far in the story) Is the character feeling certain emotions? Is the setting a scary or interesting place?
- Look for the main idea. ...(This is the problem in the story and how it is resolved at the end)
- Write a summary of what you read. ...(What are the events of the story? If it is nonfiction then what are some main facts that you were to learn?)
- Break up the reading into smaller sections. ...(Every 2-3 pages, stop and ask yourself what you have read. If you can't remember much then re-read it)
- Pace yourself. ...(Work on one thing at a time. For example: start with the main character - describe their personality and remember their actions. They are who move the story forward) Move to setting, sequence of events, main idea. Once you understand what each of these are you can put them all together to understand all of the aspects of a story.
- Eliminate distractions. Reading is a quiet activity and distractions will make you lose focus.