

Reading Strategies and Tips

Learning to read takes practice, more practice than children get during the school day. Research shows that kids who spend as little as 30 minutes a day reading books, magazines, and newspapers are more likely to become good readers. You can help your child become a better reader by “practicing” at home every day. Here are some strategies and tips that you can use at home when working with your child.

Reading Prompts

Here are some prompts that you can use when you are listening to your child read.

- Look at the picture to help figure out the unknown word.
- Look at how the word begins. Get your mouth ready to say it.
- Does the word you read make sense?
- Does that sound right?
- Start that sentence again.
- Skip the word and go on. Now, what do you think the word is?
- Where have you seen that word before?
- Think about a word you know that has the same sound in it.
- Put in a word that makes sense and go on.
- Does it look like (put in the word your child said)?

Steps to Help Your Child with Reading Accuracy

- When your child makes an error, let him/her finish the sentence. Then have your child look back at the word that he/she had trouble with.
- Ask your child to identify the “tricky part” of the word and help them to work through that part. Then have your child reread the sentence.
- Encourage your child to look at the beginning, middle, and end parts of the word to help figure out the word.

Steps to Help Your Child Gain Comprehension

- First ask your child to predict what he or she thinks is going to happen in the story based on the title and cover picture.
- Do a picture walk. Look at each page and have your child describe what is happening on each page.
- Make sure your child has prior knowledge about the topic of the book. For example, if the book is about a “subway”, make sure he/she understands that a subway is an underground train.
- Ask questions as you are reading the story.
- Talk about connections you and your child can make with the story. For example, if the book is about a trip to the zoo, you might talk about the time your family went to a zoo.
- Have your child retell the story. Start at the beginning and tell me what happened in this story. Make sure your child includes the following details: character, setting, problem, and solution.
- Ask your child what part he/she liked best in the story and why.
- Ask your child what was the most important event that happened in the story and why was it important.

Steps to Help Your Child Become a Fluent Reader

- Make sure the book your child is reading is not too difficult.
- Encourage your child to reread easy books or books that he/she has already read.
- Encourage your child to read out loud to younger children.
- Echo read. You read a phrase and your child repeats it after you echoing your phrasing and expression.

Praise Goes a Long Way

- I like the way you tried to help yourself.
- Nice job! I saw you check the word with the picture to see if you were right.
- I like the way you worked out the hard part.
- I like the way you corrected the word.
- That's what good readers do.