

Reading At Home

Presented by
Shelly Klein

Reading is a complicated and exciting process. Since reading is an active experience, readers must use a combination of skills and strategies in order to be a competent reader.

There are many things parents can do to help with this learning process. Parents can encourage their readers by understanding the balance of skills and strategies in the reading process. Parents can also engage in rich discussions with their readers by asking specific questions.

Why should I read to my child?

- Reading good books with children can strengthen the relationship between parents and their children by providing a quiet time of closeness and sharing.
- Good books can answer children's questions and can respond to children's concerns and give children a sense of hope over life's challenges.
- Reading to your child lets your child know that you value reading and books and your child will begin to also.
- Children will learn that books are sources of enjoyment and pleasure and provide a means of gaining new information about things in the world
- Studies show that children who are read to from infancy have a thirst for knowledge

How does reading to your child affect his or her reading competency?

- Reading books to young children can have an effect on their beginning reading skills.
- When they hear a story, children begin to associate what is spoken with what is written.
- They can discover that letters represent sounds that form words.
- They also begin to gain a longer attention span by remaining with the story from beginning to end.
- Books introduce a rich vocabulary and manner of expression to supplement what children learn during everyday conversation.
- When children are read to regularly by an adult who enjoys the experience, they will discover the magic of printed work and gain a respect and affection for books.

How to read with your child and help create life long readers?

- Begin to read with your children when they are infants.
- Pick a regular time and place to read with your children.
- Let your children help select what you read together.
- Interact with your children when reading.
- Encourage older siblings to help.
- Take regular trips to the library.
- Repeat favorite stories as often as your child wishes.

Build A Vocabulary of 13 New Words A Day.

From kindergarten up, children need to learn about 5,000 words a year, that's 13 words a day! They need everyday words and academic words that will help them comprehend science, math, history, and geography. Books are the best vocabulary builders. To add variety, make sure your child has nonfiction and fiction choices.

Comprehension: How to Help Your Kids Read It and Get It!

In order to foster a love of reading in children, we must make sure that children understand what they are reading. If they do not understand what they read, they are not really reading. If they do not unlock meaning as they read, the words are boring babble and they will never read well or enjoy reading. So, how is meaning unlocked?

In the 1980's a breakthrough occurred: researchers identified the specific thinking strategies used by proficient readers. They found that reading is an interactive process in which good readers engage in a constant internal dialogue with the text. The ongoing dialogue helps them understand and elaborate on what they read. By identifying what good readers do as they read, this research gave important new insights about how to teach children to read it and get it.

Good readers use the following 7 Keys to unlock meaning:

1. **Create Mental Images:**

Good readers create a wide range of visual, auditory, and other sensory images as they read, and they become emotionally involved with what they read.

2. **Use Background Knowledge/Make Connections:**

Good readers use their relevant prior knowledge before, during, and after reading to enhance their understanding of what they're reading.

3. **Ask Questions:**

Good readers generate questions before, during, and after reading to clarify meaning, make predictions, and focus their attention on what's important.

4. **Make Inferences:**

Good readers use their prior knowledge and information from what they read to make predictions, seek answers to questions, draw conclusions, and create interpretations that deepen their understanding of the text.

5. **Determine The Most Important Ideas/Themes:**

Good readers identify key ideas or themes as they read, and they can distinguish between important and unimportant information.

6. **Synthesize Information:**

Good readers track their thinking as it evolves during reading, to get the overall meaning.

7. **Use Fix Up Strategies:**

Good readers are aware of when they understand and when they don't. If they have trouble understanding specific words, phrases, or longer passages, they use a wide range of problem-solving strategies including skipping ahead, rereading, asking questions, using a dictionary, and reading the passage aloud.

How can you encourage your child to be a reader?

In order for your child to be a successful and motivated reader he or she needs to be surrounded by books at home. One way you can begin to do this is to take your child to the library, introduce him/her to the librarian and get him/her a library card. This will be a wonderful activity for you to do with your child and he/she will feel excited at the idea of being able to take out books each week. It's a great idea to set one day a week to travel to the library and take out books.

Additionally, in order for your child to be a strong reader, he/she needs to read a lot and many times throughout the day. After dinner and at bedtime are good times to read and relax with you child. Before you read, have your child take a picture walk throughout the book. This will help your child get ready to read the story by becoming familiar with the pictures. Before you begin to read, ask you child to make a prediction and then as you read, you can check together whether or not his/her prediction was right.

After you read, you and your child can talk about the book and share what stood out for you and for your child. Perhaps your child can connect to a part of the story or maybe the characters remind your child of something or someone.

The most important thing to remember is that you child needs to see that you value reading and that reading is very important. Please try these tips as home to help create a strong reader within your child.

Some Questions to ask your child about his/her reading

1. Is there a part of the story that you can connect to your life? If so, read it to me and tell me why?
2. Is there a character, who reminds you of a character in another book, tell me about that character and who it reminds you of.
3. Can you picture the setting of the story? What are you picturing and what words are creating that picture for you?
4. Is there an event that is happening that you have experienced too? If so tell me about it?
5. Is there a problem that is occurring that you can relate to, tell me about it?
6. Do you think there is something the character should do? What advice do you have?
7. Based on what is happening now, what do you think will happen next?
8. Do you think there is any underlying or deeper message for the reader? What is it and what is making you think this way?
9. What is going on in your mind as you read? What are you busy thinking about?
10. Have your child retell the story or a scene from the story. See below

Retelling a Story	Retelling a Story
Characters- Who is the story about? Setting- Where does the story takes place? Problem- What goes wrong on the story? Important Event- Important Event- Solution- How is it solved/fixed?	First Then After that, Next, Finally, At the end

QUESTIONS FOR EACH STRATEGY

Predicting

What do you predict will happen in the text?

Are you adjusting your predictions as you read?

Have your predictions changed as you read?

Connecting

Is there a part of the story that reminds you of something in your own life?

Is there a part of the story that reminds you of another text you have read?

Is there a part of the story that reminds you of something happening in the world?

Questioning

Can you show me a part of the text where you have a question?

What were you wondering about as you read this part?

Can you show me a part where you were confused? What was confusing about it?

Visualizing

Were there places in the text where you made a picture in your mind?

What images or pictures did you see?

What specific words helped you create that picture in your mind?

Inferring

What do you predict will happen in this text?

Can you show me a place in the text where you found yourself making an inference?

What do you think were the big ideas in this story?

Determining Importance

What is the story or piece mostly about?

Can you tell me about some of the important ideas that struck you?

Any important themes you noticed?

What do you think is most important to remember about this story/topic?

Synthesizing

Can you tell me what the piece is about in just a few sentences?

Can you show me a place in the piece where your thinking changed?

How did your thinking change?

Do you have some new ideas or information?