

Reading Strategies

This is a list of strategies for you to use with your child when reading at home. These strategies will help them to figure out unfamiliar words and will aid in their understanding.



◆ Use Decoding/Phonics

When you come to a word you don't know, look at the letters carefully and think about the sounds they stand for. Remember that two letters together often make the same sound in different words. Try to sound out the word using the phonics rules you already know.

◆ Look at Word Bits and Parts

When you see a word you don't know, look for parts of the word that you already know. Then try to put the parts together.

◆ Self Correct

Sometimes you need to change the way you read something so that it makes sense.

◆ Read Ahead

When you get to a word you have tried to sound out but still don't know, try reading ahead. Sometimes the word will make sense when you read the whole sentence or paragraph.

◆ Reread Aloud

Sometimes you can figure out a tricky word when you hear yourself rereading out loud the words or sentences that come before or after the tricky word.

◆ Make and Confirm Predictions

Think about what might happen next. Read to find out whether you were right. Make new predictions as you read.

◆ Sequence Events/Summarize

Think about the order in which things happen. When you finish reading, see if you can tell about the main things that happened.

◆ Create Mental Images

As you read, picture in your mind what is happening. This can help you understand and enjoy the story.

◆ Use Context to Confirm Meaning

When you come to a word you aren't sure of, look at the words before and after it. Check to see if what you read makes sense. Look for clues to the word's meaning.

◆ Make Inferences

An author doesn't tell everything. Often the author shows things and lets the reader decide what they mean. As you read, look for clues that help you figure out what the words might not say.