

What Can I Do if My Student Needs Help in...

Finding the Right Book

Choose a book and ask...

- Why did I choose this book?
- Am I interested in the story or subject?
- Do I know the words in the book?
- Do I understand what I'm reading about?

*"The more that you **READ**,
the more things you will **KNOW**.
The more that you **LEARN**,
the more places you'll **GO**."*

-DR. SEUSS

Figuring out Words

USE PICTURE CLUES

- Look at the picture.
- Are there people, objects, or actions in the picture that might make sense in the sentence?

SOUND OUT THE WORD

- Start with the first letter, and say each letter-sound aloud.
- Blend the sounds together and try to say the word. Does the word make sense in the sentence?

LOOK FOR CHUNKS IN THE WORD

- Look for familiar letter chunks. They may be sounds or syllables, prefixes or suffixes, whole words or base words.
- Read each chunk by itself. Then blend the chunks together and sound out the word. Does that word make sense in the sentence?

CONNECT TO A WORD YOU KNOW

- Think of a word that looks like the unfamiliar word.
- Compare the familiar word to the unfamiliar word. Decide if the familiar word is a chunk or form of the unfamiliar word.
- Use the known word in the sentence to see if it makes sense. If so, the meanings of the two words are close enough for understanding.

RE-READ THE SENTENCE

- Read the sentence more than once.
- Think about what word might make sense in the sentence. Try the word and see if the sentence makes sense.

KEEP READING

- Read past the unfamiliar word and look for clues.
- If the word is repeated, compare the second sentence to the first. What word might make sense in both?

USE PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

- Think about what you know about the subject of the book, paragraph, or sentence.
- Do you know anything that might make sense in the sentence? Read the sentence with the word to see if it makes sense.

Fluency

FLUENCY IS READING...

1. SMOOTHLY: not too fast or too slow.
2. AUTOMATICALLY: reading in phrases, not one...word...at...a...time.

Example: Jack and Jill went up the hill to fetch a pail of water.

3. WITH EXPRESSION: reading with feeling in your voice, not like a robot.
4. WITH ATTENTION TO PUNCTUATION:

- Stop. Take a breath.
- ▼ Pause, take a mini-breath.
- ? Voice goes up, stop.
- ! Voice gets louder, stop.
- “ ” Slide into a new voice.

WHAT TO DO:

1. Read it again. Re-reading a text three or four times increases familiarity with the words, builds confidence, and increases fluency. Use a stopwatch or clock to time your student while he or she reads a page. Then repeat, reading and measuring the time again, to see how speed and fluency improve.
2. Read out loud while your child watches the words. Many children who struggle with fluency are used to reading word by word. Training their eyes to move through the words more quickly will help them tremendously.

Comprehension

Reading comprehension is understanding, interacting, and connecting with written words before, during, and after reading.

Skill	Definition	Examples of Questions
Predicting	Think about what's going to happen and make predictions based on what you know and what you have read.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Looking at the title, cover and illustrations/pictures, what do you think will happen in this book? * What characters do you think might be in the book? * Do you think there will be problem in the story? Why? * What do you already know about the topic of this book? * Does the topic or story relate to you or your family? How? * Do you think it will be like any other book you've read? If so, which one, and how do you think it will be similar?
Questioning	Ask yourself questions before, during, and after reading to better understand the author and the meaning of the text.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Who is the main character in the story? * Who are the other characters in this story? * What is your favorite part of the chapter or book? * Describe your favorite character. * Where do you think this story takes place? Why do you think that? * When do you think the story takes place? Why do you think that? * What is the problem in this story? * How is the problem solved? * Why do you think the author wrote this story? What did he/she want you to learn?
Making Connections	<p>Text-to-Self</p> <p>Text-to-Text</p> <p>Text-to-World</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * What does this story remind you of? * Can you relate to the characters in the story? * Does anything in this story remind you of anything in your own life? * What does this remind you of in another book you have read? * How is this text similar to other things you have read? * How is this text different from other things you have read? * What does this remind you of in the real world? * How are events in this story similar to things that happen in the real world? * How are events in this story different from things that happen in the real world?

Comprehension (continued)

Skill	Definition	Examples of Questions
Visualizing	Make a picture in your mind about what you are reading.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * I could really picture . . . * The description of ____ helped me visualize . . . * I created a mental image of . . . * In my mind I could really see . . . * When it said ____, I could imagine . . . * If this were a movie . . .
Synthesizing	Merge new information with prior knowledge to form a new idea, perspective, or opinion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Is there anything that you understand in a new way from reading this story or page? * What ideas (concepts or feelings) are most interesting to you? Why? * Does (a historical event or personal experience) make more sense after reading this? * Does this book make you think of anything that has happened to you? If so, what? * Does this story remind you of anything you have read?
Critiquing	Form and explain an opinion with evidence from the story or passage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Would people in your life act this way? * What is unbelievable about this text? * Should other kids read this? Why or why not? * What important information is missing? * What would have made this story or book more interesting to you? * What are the words or phrases that you really liked or disliked?
Summarizing	Tell a shortened version of the book in your own words.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * In general, what is this story about? * What is the problem to be solved in this story? Is there a solution? * What has happened so far? * What is the most important point in this story or passage?
Analyzing	Noticing the way the author uses language to get his or her ideas across.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * What things would make everyone like this book? * In what ways does the author make you feel as if you were there? * What are some examples of rich, colorful, or great language that make this a good passage to read? * What are the critical points in the plot? How does this story unfold?