

Reading Comprehension Strategies

Reading comprehension is the ability to understand, relate to, and learn from what one reads.

Reading comprehension strategies that you can encourage your child to use **before** he or she reads are:

- Preview the book. Look at the cover, the back of the book, the author blurb, the table of contents, and other book features to predict what might happen in the book.
- When reading non-fiction, think about and discuss what you know about the topic.
- Make sure the book is an appropriate selection that matches your reading strategies and interest. Read the first page or two and ask yourself if you are able to understand the story so far.

Reading comprehension strategies that you can encourage your child to use **during** reading are:

- Read back. When you begin to read, reread the page or two that you finished reading yesterday.
- Go back and reread a sentence that you don't understand.
- Stop and talk about parts that make you angry, surprise you, remind you of something that has happened to you, or remind you of another book.
- Think back/think ahead. Stop and think back for a minute about what you have just read then look for clues that tell you what may happen next and think ahead to make a prediction.
- Imagine a story taking place as if it were a movie. Imagine the characters' features. Picture the plot in time and space.

Reading comprehension strategies that you can encourage your child to use **after** reading are:

- Summarize what you just read. Include important information (who, what, where, when, why and how). Think about the beginning, middle and end as you retell this part of the story.
- Ask yourself: Who are the characters? What is the setting of the story? What is the problem? What is the solution?
- Draw or write about your favorite part.
- Write a letter to the author or to a character in the book.
- Give a book review. Tell what you liked or disliked about the book.
- Ask yourself: What was the author's purpose? Think about why the author wrote the book or article.