



Guidelines to assisting your child with their reading

Here are some guidelines for you to help your child gain the maximum benefit when listening to their reading. When listening to your child read you need to be actively involved in the process. When a child reads, them merely saying the words in the text is not sufficient. They need to be actively involved in the text. In this way they develop comprehension skills and reading strategies.

Step 1: Discuss the title of the book and the picture on the front cover. Ask your child to predict what the story is going to be about. Where do they think the story is going to take place? Do a picture walk before reading the story. That means discuss each picture in the book, looking at the detail in each picture. For example:

- What is happening in this picture?
- Do you think this person is happy/sad?
- Why do you think they are happy or sad?
- Where is the story taking place (setting)?

Once you have completed the picture walk ask your child to predict again what might be happening in the story. (Maybe their predictions have changed.)

Step 2: Have your child read the story to you. Should they encounter an unfamiliar word use one of the following strategies:

- Ask your child to be an 'eagle eye' and look at the picture to help them work out the word.
- Ask them to try and sound out the word.
- Maybe if they read the rest of the sentence they might be able to work out the words using contextual clues.

Step 3: Now talk about what happened in the story. Here are some examples of questions that might be asked.

- Were your predictions correct?
- Where did they story take place?



- Who were the characters in the story?
- Explain what happened in the story.
- What was the problem in the story?
- How was the problem solved?
- Did the story remind you about anything?
- Did you learn anything new from the story?
- Did you enjoy the story?

Research has shown that there is a great deal of benefit from rereading a text to develop sight word recognition, fluency and pace.

Reading with expression needs to be encouraged. Reading with expression has been found to assist with understanding and the retention of the text as the reader is actively involved with the text. Reading with expression involves changes in pitch- the rise and fall of the voice, excitement and loudness of the voice.

I hope these guidelines will assist in the development of your child's reading.

Regards

Mary de Andrade