



Reading: The At-Home Connection

Word Attack Strategies

At school, your child is learning many strategies that they can use when they are "stuck" on a word. Here are some prompts that you can use at home to reinforce what we are doing at school.

- Skip the difficult word. Read on to the end of the sentence or paragraph. Go back to the beginning and then try again.
- Substitute a word that makes sense.
- Look for a known chunk or small word.
- Read the word using only beginning and ending sounds. Read the word with vowels.
- Look at the picture cues.
- Link to prior knowledge.
- Predict and anticipate what would come next.
- Cross check:
Does it sound right?
Does it look right?
Does it make sense?
- Write words you can't figure out and need to know on Post-it notes.
- Read passage several times for fluency and meaning.
- Use errors as an opportunity to problem solve.

Building Literacy—A Parent's Guide

Before Reading—Fiction

- Read the title—What do you think the story is about?
- Look at the cover and make predictions.
- Take a picture walk. Have your child ask questions about the pictures.
- Read the write up at the back or inside cover.
- Read "About the Author". Have you read other books written by this author?

Before Reading—Non-Fiction

- Read the title and look at the cover. What is the book about?
- Ask, "What are some of the things you would like to learn by reading this book?"
- Read the Table of Contents and talk about what you might find in the book.
- Look at the headings.
- Look at the pictures, tables, charts or graphs.
- Have your child tell you what they might know about the topic.

While Reading

- Hold the book together.
- Don't read too quickly, read at a comfortable pace.
- Refer to the pictures as you read.
- When appropriate, stop and ask your child if the picture or story reminds them of another story or something they have experienced.

After Reading

- Always make time to talk about the story.
- Ask, "What was your favourite part? Why?"
- Ask, "Would you recommend this book to a friend, why or why not?"
- Ask, "Do you think the author was trying to teach/tell us something? How do you know?"
- Ask, "If you could invite one of the characters over for dinner, which character would you pick and why?"
- Sometimes, have your child tell you the story in their own words using the GoMaP

If you read non-fiction:

- Ask—"What new information did you learn?"
- Ask- "What questions do you still have?"

