

Supporting your Reader at Home

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Essential Skills for Comprehension

1. Decoding

- a. The ability to connect individual sounds to letters and then blend the sounds into a word
 - i. To read the word *sun*, your child must know that the letter *s* makes the /s/ sound etc.

2. Fluency

- a. Read smoothly, at a good pace, group words/phrases together to help with meaning.

3. Vocabulary

- a. Can be explicitly taught
- b. Is learned through everyday experiences /reading/ being read to

4. Understanding sentence construction

- a. Connecting 2 or more thoughts
 - i. I am like the character Jim because I also have trouble falling asleep sometimes.

5. Background Knowledge

- a. Prior knowledge about the world

6. Working Memory/ attention

- a. Holding onto information and use it to gain meaning and build knowledge from what was read.

How You Can Support these Essential Skills With your Child

Decoding

- ★ Practice identifying letters & their associated sounds
- ★ Build phonological awareness through word play/games
 - ★ Practice tapping out CVC words
 - Top, cap, rug, pet, zip
- ★ Build phonological awareness by simply reading aloud to your child!

How You Can Support these Essential Skills With your Child

Fluency

- ★ Rereading texts
- ★ Practice their trick words to build their list of words they know automatically
 - ★ Read books that are just right for them
 - ★ Model what fluent reading sounds like

How You Can Support these Essential Skills With your Child

Vocabulary

- ★ Have frequent conversations with your child- throw in some “big” words!
- ★ Read together so you can discuss new vocabulary as it arises naturally
- ★ Visit new places to gain vocabulary that won't otherwise be accessible to them as a reader yet

How You Can Support these Essential Skills With your Child

Understanding Sentence Construction

- ★ When discussing a book, a shared experience, their day..encourage your child to converse with you in complete/connected sentences.
 - ★ Model how you speak in complete sentences.

How You Can Support these Essential Skills With your Child

Background Knowledge

- ★ Expose your child to as many life experiences as possible and talk about what you both learned from the experience
- ★ Help your child make connections between new knowledge and existing knowledge
- ★ Ask open-ended questions that require thinking and explanations
-who, what, when, where, why..

How You Can Support these Essential Skills With your Child

Attention/ Memory

- ★ Provide reading material that is interesting/ motivating to your child.
- ★ Encourage your child to stop and re-read when something isn't clear.
- ★ Model how you “think aloud” when you read to ensure what you're reading makes sense.

**Please take some informational
copies as you leave today.**
