

## 8) Pay Attention to the Punctuation!

- Doing what the punctuation mark says will increase understanding and enjoyment of the story and convey feelings that the author intended.
- Period- Your child's voice should go down and take a breath.
  - Question Mark- Your child's voice should go up at the end of the sentence.
  - Exclamation point- Your child's voice should show excitement!
- \*\*\*Teacher Tip- Have your students highlight the punctuation marks if they tend to ignore punctuation.

## 9) Read with Expression

- Pay attention to quotation marks in the story. This is the time that your child gets to be an actor. Encourage your child to think about what the character is thinking, how the character is feeling and what the character is doing and then read the sentence(s) in that way. (For example, If the character is upset when saying, "I'm going to have a new baby sister," it will be read differently than if the character is excited.
- \*\*\* Teacher Tip- Encourage your child to use picture clues to figure out how the character is feeling on a particular page).



## 10) After Reading, Don't Just Close the Book

Discussing a story after reading deepens comprehension:

- After reading fiction:

- Have your child compare their original prediction to the actual story.
- Retell the story. When retelling remind your child to act like they are telling the story to someone who has never read it before. Be sure that your child is specific about character names as opposed to saying "he or she."

### Higher level Thinking Questions to Ask after Reading

#### Fiction

- What was the problem in the story and how would you have solved it?
- What lesson did the character learn?
  - What character from the story would you like to have as a friend? Why?
- Describe the funniest, happiest, or saddest part from the story. Why?
- What changes would you make to the story?
  - How did the story make you feel?

### Higher level Thinking Questions to Ask after Reading

#### Nonfiction

- Tell 2 facts and one opinion about what you read.
- Draw a picture showing something you learned and add a caption.
- What new vocabulary did you learn from the story?
  - What does it mean?
- How is the information learned in this book different from what you already knew?
- What questions do you still have about the topic?
- What interesting information did you learn from a photograph, caption, map or graph?



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# Top 10 Reading Strategies

All Parents Should Know  
To Help Your Child's  
Reading Grow



Practicing these strategies at home will help to improve your child's word recognition, fluency, comprehension and love of reading.

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### 1) Read Aloud to Your Child

- Reading to your child is a great way of demonstrating to your child what good readers do while reading.
- Continue to read to your child even when he/she is able to read on his/her own.
- When your child is able to read, alternate between you reading a page/ paragraph and your child reading a page/paragraph.
- Stop often to discuss what has been read and to make predictions about what will happen in the story.  
\*\*Teacher Tip- Read "non-books" with your child. Examples are recipes, menus, trading cards, internet jokes, game directions, sticky note messages, song lyrics, newspapers, comic strips, emails, atlases.

### 2) Do a Picture Walk Before Reading

- Look at the pictures to get information before reading.
- What story do the pictures tell?(Keep the title of the story in mind as well).
- Use the pictures to make a prediction about the story. This "warms the brain up" for reading and will increase focus and understanding.  
\*\*Teacher Tip-Occasionally use books without words and have your child create a story using only the picture. This will encourage your child to more closely focus on details in the pictures.

### 3) Re-read When You Get to a Tricky Word

- When your child is reading and encounters a tricky word, instead of telling them "Sound it Out", encourage them to go back to the beginning of the sentence and read it again, thinking about what would make sense. Often times, the word will "POP" out of your child's mouth.

### 4) Look at the Picture When you Get to a Tricky Word

- Often times, looking at the picture will provide a clue for the tricky word. For example, if a sentence reads, "The bird is in the tree." If your child gets stuck on the word "bird", simply looking at the picture will provide a clue.

### 5) Look for Parts You Know to Figure Out Tricky Words

(For example- yes- ter-day)

- \*\*\* Teacher Tip- Have your child use his/her finger to cover parts of words so that their brain can focus on one smaller part at a time.



- 6) Skip the Unknown Word and Read On  
Spending so much time trying to sound out a word causes one to forget what the beginning of the sentence was about.

Have your child say "blank" for the unknown word, read to the end of the sentence and then re-read the sentence from the beginning. Often times, the remainder of the sentence will provide clues for what the unknown word is.

Example.- "This morning for \_\_\_\_\_ I ate eggs, bacon and toast." You can figure out that the missing word is "breakfast" because of the clue words in the rest of the sentence -ate eggs, bacon and toast).

### 7) Stop and Think During Reading

- Have your child stop every few pages to be sure he/she is understanding what he/she has read. If reading fiction, they can ask themselves Who? is in the story and "What happened?"  
If reading nonfiction they complete the prompt, "On this page(s) I learned..."

If your child is unable to answer these questions, then he/she should reread that part of the story.

