

Everyday Reading Comprehension Activities

- **Read, read, read!** Read to your children every day. Make it part of your bedtime routine, an after-dinner activity, or a fun way to spend time together on the couch.
- **Set a good example by letting your children see you read.** Show them that reading is a good choice for leisure activity and sure beats watching TV. Talk about the book you're reading. Listening to you summarize your book teaches your children how to take what they've read, absorb it and condense it.
- **Use pre-reading comprehension techniques.** Before reading a book, have your child look at the cover and the pictures inside and predict what the story is about.
- **Read books together and discuss.** Read to your children every evening. At the end of each chapter, discuss what happened. Parents can still share books with older children by reading the same book separately. Ask your child question stems as you read. Allowing children to retell a story that they read to practice comprehension skills.
- **Play board games with your children.** Board games require putting into action everything that is read, and can help increase reading comprehension. Help your children read the instructions to a new board game or review the rules of an old favorite. Ask if they'd like to change the rules or game slightly and implement their suggestions.
- **Cook or bake with a recipe.** Find a lengthy recipe for something that your children love to eat and make it together. Turn over recipe reading duties to your children and watch them take what they've read and turn it into something delicious.
- **Play Hangman.** The simple word game is a good way to build your child's vocabulary. It only requires a pencil and paper and can easily be played while waiting in waiting rooms or the car.
- **Use the book club discussion questions in the back of books.** Many chapter books include discussion questions for book clubs, which provide good discussion points for at-home book talks.
- **Play with inflection.** Try this with your young child: Read a line from a book and have your child repeat it back to you with dramatic expression, inflection and phrasing.

Reading Questions

Literal Questions

- What is the title of your book?
- Who is the author of your book?
- What is the book mainly about?
- Are there any problems? How were the problems solved?
- Who are the characters in your book?
- What are the events in your story?
- Where does the story take place?
- When does the story take place?
- What happened first?
- How did the story end?

Interpretive Questions

- Do you think the title of your book is an appropriate title for the book? Why or why not?
- Why do you think the author wrote this book? Why do you think that?
- How has the book made you feel so far? Why?
- How would you describe the character(s)? Why did you describe the character(s) like that?
- Why did the character do that?
- If you haven't finished your book yet, what do you think will happen next in your book? Why?

Experience-based Questions

- If you could give your book a new title, what would it be? Why?
- What lessons have you learned from your book so far? What in your book made you think that? Can you show me?
- Can you relate to any of the experiences that the characters are going through? How can you relate?
- Can you imagine what the characters look like? Can you describe to me how they look? What made you describe the character like that?
- What character do you like the best? Why? What characters do you like the least? Why?