



Children who are read to are more likely to develop the skills they need to read successfully on their own.

Prior to Reading, ask the children to listen for answers to some of the following questions:

- What is the setting?
- Who are the characters?
- What is the genre? Fiction? Nonfiction? Poetry?
- Was there a conflict? Resolution?
- Who is telling the story? (Point of View)
- What was the theme? Is there a message in this story?
- Do you like the illustrations? Why or Why not? Who was the illustrator?
- What do you know about the author? How can you tell?
- How did you feel while reading this book? Happy? Sad? Why did you feel that way?

Having children participate while reading engages active listening skills.

- Children may chime in when a passage is read repeatedly throughout the story.
- Children may use nonverbal cues while actively listening:
 - Scratch your head when you hear a passage that describes a setting.
 - When the setting changes, touch your shoulders.
 - When you hear a sensory description, give a thumbs up.
 - When you hear the text describing food, rub your tummy.

Suggestions for Engaging Active Listening:

- **Introduce the story** by telling the children the title and a brief comment about the topic. (Allow children to anticipate what will happen in the story, but be careful not to summarize the story.)
- **Activate Prior Knowledge** by asking children what they know about the topic.
- **Read the story expressively** such as showing surprise, asking a question, giving an opinion or expressing pleasure. Intonation and giving characters their own individual voice is also effective.
- **Model Comprehension Strategies** in a natural manner: visualizing, predicting, asking questions, making connections, clarifying and summarizing.
- **Discuss the text** at the end of the story. Have the child/children retell the story in their own words. **Schema:** Did the text remind them of something they had done before? Did the text remind them of another book they have read? Did the text remind them of something that happens in real life? Did they like the text? Why or Why not and give examples.

Reading aloud promotes children's curiosity about text and conveys a message that text has meaning. It exposes children to the "language of literature" which is more complex than the language they use and hear on a daily basis. It models the various reasons for reading. (Informational, inquiry about the world around them or just for pleasure.)

Parents/Guardians of our future fluent readers.....**You are the Initial Role Models** for your children! **Demonstrating the interest in and enjoyment of reading** provides an opportunity to teach the problem-solving strategies that effective readers employ. As children observe **YOU** interacting with the text, expressing enthusiasm, and modeling the thinking aloud process, they perceive these as valid responses and begin to respond to text in similar ways.

Keep Reading Daily!!!



Ms. J. Martin