

Strategies when reading with a child

Ways to read with your child to help build confidence and create a shared experience :

track reading - follow with your finger as I read to you
ghost reading - you whisper along as I read
choral reading - we all read together
echo reading - I read and then you read the same thing
partner reading - reading together or taking it in turns

This ensures children actively participate in all parts of reading sessions and supports comprehension.

It is possible that you read a page, paragraph or sentence to model and then you can take it in turns with your child to help build up their confidence.

You can periodically stop to discuss what is happening in the text using some of the question bookmarks below.

Possible reading session:

1. Child **track reads** as I read a page.
2. Child **ghost reads** the same page along with me.
3. **Stop and discuss** any vocabulary they may be unsure of - picking out clues in the text and pictures where possible.
4. I read a sentence with and without **expression** - which one do you prefer? Why?
5. Child has a go at reading sentences with expression.
6. **Partner read** - we re-read the page together taking turns.
7. **Discuss** the context of the page using question bookmarks below.

Reading with a vocabulary focus

For this type of reading you would only focus on a paragraph of text.

A possible session:

1. **Track or ghost read** text together.
2. Are there any **words that you don't know**? You could also pick out any unusual words you think would be useful to explore.
3. Say the word **out loud**. How many **syllables** does it have?
4. **Explain** using a child friendly definition.
5. Use it in an **example** within a context they would be familiar with.
6. Ask them if they can **use it** in a sentence.
7. Are there any words you think you could **upgrade**?
8. Child **reads** the text again.
9. **Discuss meaning** of the text as a whole - you could use some of the bookmark questions.

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Vocabulary Questions with Victor

- What does this word/phrase/sentence tell you about the character/setting/mood?
- By writing in this way, what effect has the author created?
- What other words/phrases could the author have used here?
- How has the author made you feel by writing...?



Inference Questions with Iggy

- What do you think.... means? Why do you think that?
- Why do you think...?
- How do you think....?
- Can you explain why....?
- What do these words mean and why do you think that the author chose them?



Retrieval Questions with Rex

- Who are the characters in this text?
- When / where is this story set? How do you know?
- Which part of the story best describes the setting?
- What do you think is happening here?
- What might this mean?



Prediction Questions with Pip

- Can you think of another story with a similar theme?
- Which stories have openings like this? Do you think that this story will develop the same way?
- Why did the author choose this setting? Will that influence the story?



Summarising Questions with Sheba

- What is the main point in this paragraph?
- Sum up what has happened so far in X words or less.
- Which is the most important point in these paragraphs?
- Do any sections/paragraphs deal with the same themes?



Compare, Contrast and Comment with Cassie

- What is similar/different about two characters?
- Explain why... did that.
- Describe different characters' reactions to the same event.
- Is this as good as...?
- Which... is better and why?



Be an Author with Arlo

- What does the word... tell you about...?
- Find two ways that the author tells you...
- What do you think the author meant by...?



- Which words do you think are most important? Why?
- Which words do you like the most? Why?
- How has the author made you feel happy/sad/angry/frustrated?



Vocabulary Questions with Victor

- What does this word/phrase/sentence tell you about the character/setting/mood? By writing..., what effect has the author created? Do you think they intended to?
- What other words/phrases could the author have used here? Why?
- How has the author made you feel by writing...? Why



Inference Questions with Iggy

- What do you think... means? Why do you think that? Could it be anything else?
- I think...; do you agree? Why / why not?
- How do you think...?
- Can you explain why...?
- What do these words mean and why do you think that the author chose them?



Retrieval Questions with Rex

- Find the... in this text. Is it anywhere else?
- When/where is this story set? How do you know?
- Find the part of the story that best describes the setting.
- What do you think is happening here? Why?
- What might this mean?



Prediction Questions with Pip

- Can you think of another story with a similar theme? How do their plots differ?
- Which stories have openings like this? Do you think that this story will develop the same way?
- Why did the author choose this setting? Will that influence the story?



Summarising Questions with Sheba

- What is the main point in this paragraph? Is it mentioned anywhere else?
- Sum up what has happened so far in X words/seconds or less.
- Which is the most important point in these paragraphs? Why?
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Compare, Contrast and Comment with Cassie

- What is similar/different about two characters? Did the author intend that?
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- Find the... in this text. Is it anywhere else?
- When/where is this story set? Find evidence in the text.
- Find the part of the story that best describes the setting.
- What do you think is happening here? Why?
- Who is telling this story?



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