



IGNITING LEADERS
CHANGING LIVES

PARENT GUIDE TO READING IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

ENHANCING YOUR CHILD'S READING COMPREHENSION

Understanding what they read is crucial for children. It moves them beyond just saying the words to really getting into the heart of the text, linking ideas, and thinking about the content critically.

Here are some tips to support your child's reading comprehension at home:

Before Reading:

- Explore the book together: Before diving into reading, discuss the book's cover, title, and any pictures you see. Ask your child what they think the story could be about or what information they might discover. This sets the stage for curious and engaged reading.
- Connect with previous knowledge: Talk about anything your child already knows related to the book's topic. Making these connections can make the new information more relatable and easier to grasp.

During Reading:

- Engage with questions: Pause occasionally to ask your child about their thoughts on the story or information. Begin with simpler questions like "What do you think will happen next?" and build up to more thoughtful ones such as "Why do you think the character chose to do that?" This encourages your child to think more deeply and engage actively with the text.
- Encourage predictions: Motivate your child to guess what might happen next. This not only keeps them involved but helps them link different parts of the story or text together.
- Visualise the story: Assist your child in forming mental images of what they're reading. Asking, "What do you think this looks like?" can help solidify their understanding and enjoyment of the text.

After Reading:

- Summarise the text: Invite your child to recount the story or main points in their own words. This helps cement their understanding and allows you to see what they've learned.
- Make personal connections: Discuss how the story or information relates to something in your child's life. Connecting reading to real-life experiences can deepen their understanding and make reading more relevant.
- Expand vocabulary: Talk about any new words encountered during reading. Understanding and discussing these words enhances their vocabulary and supports their comprehension.

Additional Tips:

- Diversify reading materials: Expose your child to a variety of genres and formats, such as stories, informational texts, and poetry. This broadens their understanding and appreciation of different kinds of writing.
- Model understanding: Show your child how you think about texts by discussing your thoughts and questions as you read together. This demonstrates effective strategies for understanding and engaging with reading material.
- Foster independent reading: Encourage your child to select books that interest them and are appropriate for their reading level. Practising reading independently is crucial for honing comprehension skills.

This approach aims to make reading a richer, more engaging experience for your child, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of texts.

