

Reading for Success

Reading comprehension

Long after children can sound out all the words on the page, they may still have problems understanding what they read. Here are some steps you can follow to help your child read a story or an assignment in a textbook:

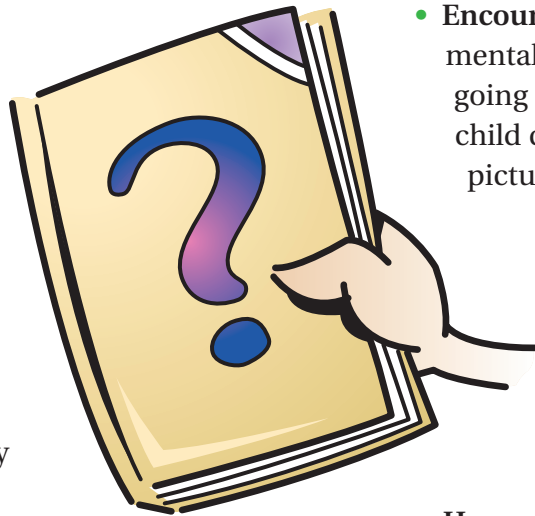
Prepare for reading assignments

- 1. Get ready.** Before reading, your child should take a few minutes to look through the story or the chapter. Ask your child some questions. “What do you think this reading will be about?” Have your child look at the pictures, if there are any. What ideas does your child have after looking at these pictures?
- 2. Scan the reading** quickly. Your child should see if there are any words that may be hard to understand. Your child should look up new words in the glossary or in a dictionary.
- 3. Take a look** at the questions at the end of the story or chapter, if there are any. They will help guide your child’s reading.
- 4. Read the story or chapter.** Your child might read it silently, then later read it aloud to you.
- 5. Ask some questions** about the reading. See if your child can tell you the main idea of the reading.
- 6. Ask your child to read the questions** at the end of the selection aloud. Then have your child restate each question.

7. Ask your child to answer a question.

If your child can’t, pick out one or two key words in the question. Have your child look back through the reading to find the place in the text that includes those words.

Think while reading



- **Encourage your child** to form mental images of what’s going on in the story. Or your child could actually draw the pictures at first.
- **Ask your child,** “Can you name at least one thing in the material that reminds you of something you already know?”
- **Have your child tell you** the most important parts of the story or text. What is the main idea? If it’s a short story or a novel, who are the main characters? What conflicts do the characters face?
- **Practice critical thinking.** Ask for your child’s thoughts about the material. Does it make sense? Should the author have presented it in a different way? Did characters in the novel make good choices?

