

Three simple strategies can boost reading comprehension

As your child gets older, he will be expected to read and understand more complex text. He will transition from learning to read to reading to learn.

You can help by sharing these three reading comprehension strategies with your child:

1. See the big picture. Before starting to read an assignment, have your child think about what he will be reading. What is the title of the chapter or assignment? Does it offer any clues about the reading? Look for other clues, such as subheadings, words in boldface or italics, pictures or graphs.
2. Take notes. Most good students take notes on what they read. Taking notes while reading will make it easier for your child to comprehend and remember information. It will also make reading active and engaging. Your child should write down the most important ideas in the reading assignment. He should also write down any words he doesn't know so he can look them up later.
3. Make connections. The best way to remember new information is by relating it to something you have already learned. When your child finishes a reading assignment, have him answer questions such as: How is this topic similar to something else I have learned? What key ideas did I already know? What new information did I learn?

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