

Elements to Include in each Reading Lesson

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Word Recognition:

- Good decoding skills help reading comprehension and spelling.
- Teach your student to hear sounds in words and learn how to put those sounds together.
- Teach your students the relationship between written letters and spoken sounds.
- Help your student to recognize words quickly and accurately.
- Help your students to use word patterns to recognize parts of words.
- Teach the use of context to help recognize an unfamiliar word.
- Teach your student to use root words, suffixes, prefixes, and other word parts to recognize an unfamiliar word.

Vocabulary

- A good oral vocabulary helps students make sense of the words they see in print.
- To understand text, readers must know what most of the words mean.
- Make a plan for learning and using new words.
- Teach how to use context clues to determine word meanings.
- Teach your student to use a dictionary.
- Talk about words and teach their multiple meanings.
- Teach idiomatic expressions.
- Teach how to use information about word parts to figure out the meanings of words in text.
- Pre-teach vocabulary for reading selections.
- Teach words for particular subjects like science, social studies, and math.
- Encourage your student to read widely and often to increase his/her vocabulary.
- Select which words to teach carefully, probably no more than 8-10 per week. Pick words that are important for understanding the text, words that appear with great frequency, and words with multiple meanings which are especially difficult.

Fluency

- Fluency is the ability to read a text accurately and quickly and enables the reader to concentrate on his/her understanding of the material.
- Model fluent reading by reading to your student regularly.
- Use duet reading, echo reading or alternate reading to practice.
- Have your student practice phrase reading.
- Monitor your student's fluency frequently.
- Encourage your student to read every day. Becoming a fluent reader requires lots of practice.

Comprehension Strategies

- Comprehension is THE reason for reading.
- Remember, when you ask questions about reading, you are testing comprehension, not teaching it!
- Show your student HOW you comprehend text by "thinking aloud."
- Teach your student comprehension strategies such as: drawing conclusions, finding the main idea, reading for specific information, sequencing material, making predictions, understanding text organization, summarizing.
- Talk about books with your student, and model the use of comprehension strategies.
- Show your student how to use these strategies and encourage him/her to practice daily.