



Raising Readers Newsletter September, 2013

Check out this newsletter for some great reading tips and resources!

How to Build a Better Reader

Be positive

- Be a positive "coach" when working with your child. A child learns best from a coach who is supportive and uncritical. Your child needs to hear you say, "You can do it!"
- Always set your child up for success to build self-efficacy (personal belief that he or she is capable). This I-can attitude means your child is less likely to quit, even when learning proves difficult.

Unplug the television

- Unplug the TV, the time is better spent reading
- When your child does watch TV, turn on the closed caption option to develop concept of word/word identification. Encourage the viewing of quality educational programming to build knowledge base and vocabulary, both necessary for good comprehension

Increase time spent reading

- Studies show the average child spends only 5 minutes a day reading outside of school hours. That is not enough!
- The single most important activity related to eventual success in reading is time spent reading-practice, practice, practice!
- Can you dedicate at least 20 minutes per day to guide your child's reading practice? That time adds up to over 100 hours a year, 100+ hours of practice with your one-on-one help will make a big difference in your child's reading ability.

Learn new ways to give your child practice at home

- Keep up the good things you are already doing to help your child in school such as helping with homework and reading books together daily!
- Enjoy learning a poem with your child by Shel Silverstein called "Boa Constrictor" (from the book *Where the Sidewalk Ends*).

Decide to be a partner with your child's school

- The school has a role to play and so you do. The school provides initial instruction. Your part is to give your child opportunities to practice what is learned in school at home. What does it take to become a good reader? Practice, practice, practice.
- Your decision to make your child's education a priority makes a big difference. There is a strong correlation between parent involvement and academic performance.

- <http://www.getinvolvedineducation.com>

Focus on the Super 7: Schema

A different comprehension strategy will be focused upon each month. This month the focus will be on schema. Here is a link to an overview of all of the Super 7 Comprehension Strategies that will be focused upon in the upcoming months.

https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B5fzT_9S7dvZWDhDVWIGY0YyWEU/edit

What do you know about schema?

Schema is your background knowledge on any given topic, idea, author, book, etc. One way to increase comprehension is to train students to think about what they already know about something before they read more about it. When kids think about this type of information, it makes them more alert to obtaining new information as they read. Sometimes they realize they have "misinformation" about something, and they adjust their thinking by removing that piece and making it correct. It's great for students to stop and think during and after the reading as well. One way to teach kids to think about schema is to think about how our brains can classify information by housing it in "file folders", with our brains the equivalent of the "file cabinet." We pull out files when we need them, adding, removing, and changing the material as we learn more.

Another way to practice schema is by making connections. Good readers understand three types of connections:

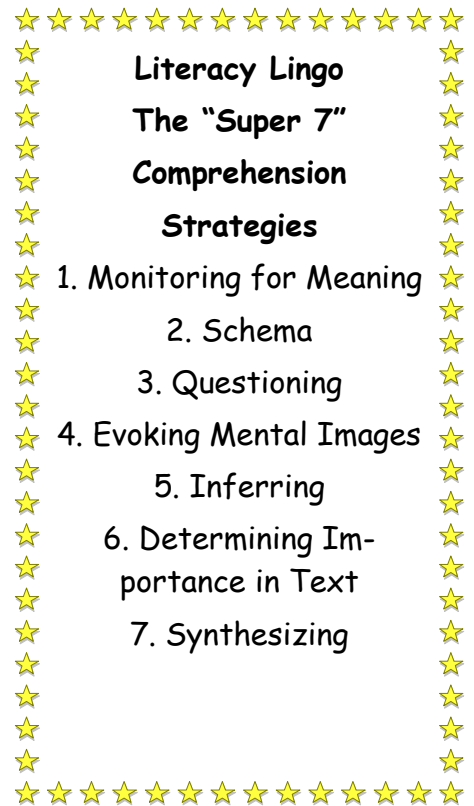
Text-to-self connections- child can link something from the book to a personal experience *in a way that adds to the understanding of the text.*

Text-to-text connections- child can link the text to a previously read text

Text-to world connections- child can link the text to an event or issue in the world

What good readers are thinking...

- ⇒ Does this remind me of something?
- ⇒ Has this ever happened to me?
- ⇒ Do I know someone like him or her? Am I like this character?
- ⇒ Have I ever felt this way?
- ⇒ What do I already know that will help me understand what I'm reading?
- ⇒ Does this information confirm or conflict with what I've read in other sources?



Literacy Lingo

The "Super 7"

Comprehension

Strategies

1. Monitoring for Meaning

2. Schema

3. Questioning

4. Evoking Mental Images

5. Inferring

6. Determining Importance in Text

7. Synthesizing

Focus on the Big 5

A different essential component of reading will be focused upon each month. This month will focus on fluency. Here is a link that includes an overview of the Big 5 essential components of reading instruction that will be focused upon in the upcoming months.

https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B5fzT_9S7dvZZ2l2V2R6Q1Z5c0E/edit

Fluency: What is it? Why is it important?

If someone is fluent in speaking another language or in playing an instrument, there's a smooth, graceful and easy quality to it. The same is true with reading skills. Reading fluency is a child's ability to read a book or other text correctly, quickly, and with expression. A fluent reader doesn't have to stop and "decode" each word. Rather, most of the words can be read automatically. This means the reader can focus his attention on what the story or text means. For that reason, fluency is critically important — it is the bridge between decoding words and understanding what has been read.

How can we foster reading fluency?

Parents can help their child develop reading fluency through a few simple and fun activities.

Paired or "Buddy" Reading

The easiest and best way to help your child develop fluency is to sit with your child and read! Read together every day, which is often called paired or buddy reading. To use paired reading, simply take turns reading aloud. You go first, as your reading provides a model of what good fluent reading sounds like. Then, ask your child to re-read the same page you just read. You'll notice that your child's reading will start to sound more and more like yours. Do this for several pages. Once your child is comfortable enough, and familiar enough with the book, take turns reading page for page.

Reread Favorite Books

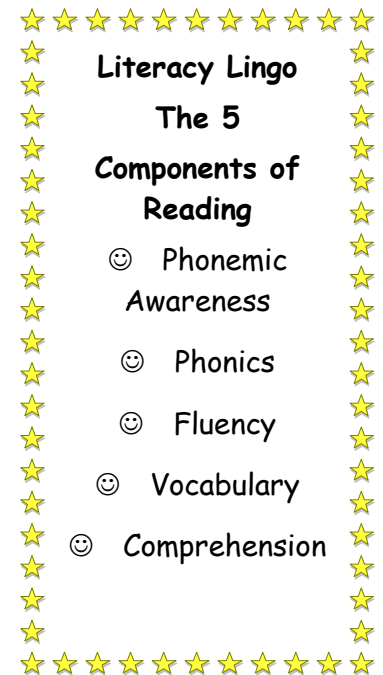
Another way parents can help develop fluency is to build a tall stack of books that your child can read quickly and easily. Encourage your child to reread favorite books over and over again. With each reading, you may notice your child reading a bit easier, a bit faster, and with a bit more confidence and expression.

Record It

Another fun way to practice reading and build fluency is to have your child create her own audio books. This can be done simply with a tape recorder or audio recording feature or app (like Audioboo) on your phone. Or, use something more sophisticated like StoryKit, where a user can create an electronic storybook and record audio to accompany it. Regardless of the method you choose, your child will be practicing what they want to record and that reading practice is critical. Sharing your audio recordings with family and friends is a great motivator too!

These activities are easy and require very few materials. Doing these activities with your child will help build fluency — a skill that will last a lifetime.

-www.readingrockets.org



15 Minute Reading Activities

Do you have 15 minutes? Make 15 minutes go a long way! Try these quick reading activities with your younger kids.

1. **License to read.** On car trips, make it a game to point out and read license plates, billboards, and interesting road signs.

2. **Better than TV.** Swap evening TV for a good action story or tale of adventure.

3. **Look and listen.** Too tired to read aloud? Listen to a book on tape and turn the book's pages with your children. You'll still be reading with them!

4. **Labels, labels, labels.** Label things in your children's room as they learn to name them. Have fun while they learn that written words are connected to everyday things.

5. **Pack a snack, pack a book.** Going someplace where there might be a long wait? Bring along a snack and a bag of favorite books.

6. **Recipe for reading.** The next time you cook with your children, read the recipe with them. Step-by-step instructions, ingredients, and measurements are all part of words in print!

7. **Shop and read.** Notice and read signs and labels in the supermarket. Back home, putting away groceries is another great time for reading labels.

8. **Your long-distance lap.** Away on a business trip? Take a few books with you, call home, and have your child curl up by the phone for a good night story.

9. **A reading pocket.** Slip fun things to read into your pocket to bring home: a comic strip from the paper, a greeting card, or even a fortune cookie from lunch. Create a special, shared moment your child can look forward to every day.

10. **A little longer?** When your child asks to stay up a little longer, say yes and make it a 15-minute family reading opportunity.

<http://school.familyeducation.com/reading/family-learning/38301.html>



Resources

Catch a kid reading and let him or her know how proud you are! Choose one of the cards from the website below and let them know you like how they read and motivate them to read even more!

<http://www.pbs.org/launchingreaders/ecards.html>

Techy Tidbit

Do you want to encourage higher-order thinking skills? Do you own an iPad? This app is for you! Students can demonstrate higher-order thinking skills using the Educreations app, which encourages students to explain concepts via an interactive whiteboard. Try it out! The ShowMe app accomplishes the same goal too! Both of these apps also have websites that can be accessed from a computer (doesn't have to be an iPad) that contain a variety of videos that students can click on and watch that explain a variety of topics!

www.educreations.com/www.showme.com



Created by:

Dana Smith

Title 1 Teacher

dasmith@hoosieracademy.org

<http://mrsdanasmith.weebly.com/>