

Families,

You are your child's first teacher, and reading with your child is a proven way to early literacy.

Helping to ensure your child is reading on grade level by third grade is an important task. By reading with your child 20 minutes a day and making a few simple things a part of your daily routine, you can make a positive impact on your child's school success.

This resource was created to assist you in understanding how to support your child's reading development and progress. Using materials found around your home, you will be able to practice the skills necessary to help your child become a fluent reader.

We are happy to provide you with this Read-At-Home Plan.



What is *phonological awareness*?

Phonological awareness is the ability to recognize and work with sounds in spoken language. It is the foundation for learning to read.

What can students with strong *phonological awareness* do?

Students with strong phonological awareness can:

- rhyme;
- count syllables;
- recognize sounds alone and in words;
- add, remove, and substitute sounds in words;
- break words into their different sounds and blend them back together; and
- isolate sounds.

Phonological Awareness Activities: **Rhyming Activities**

- Using the most common word families,
play a game where you and your child take turns thinking of rhyming words. Whoever comes up with the most for each word family wins!
Example: "What words can you think of that rhyme with -at?"
"Cat!" "Hat!"
"Rat!" "Fat!" "Gnat!"
- Using magazines, newspapers, and store advertisements, have your child look for pictures of objects that rhyme and cut them out. He/She can paste the pictures onto paper to create rhyme collages.

The 37 most common word families in English are:

A

ack, ain, ake, ale, all,
ame, an, ank, ap, ash, at,
ate, aw, ay

E

eat, ell, est

I

ice, ick, ide, ight, ill, in,
ine, ing, ink, ip, it

O

ock, oke, op, ore, ot

U

uck, ug, ump, unk

- Play “I Spy” with your child, but instead of naming a color, say, “I spy something that rhymes with ____.” Take turns with your child playing the game. Encourage the use of nonsense words as rhyming clues. Note: a nonsense word is a pattern of letters that may resemble a real word but does not appear in any standard dictionary.
- Give your child a list of three words where only two words rhyme. Ask them to identify which word does not belong.
- Sing rhyming echo songs, such as “Boom Chicka Boom.” Come up with a motion for each rhyme you create and act it out.

Phonological Awareness Activities: Alliteration Activities

Helpful tip: the slash marks around a letter indicate the sound the letter makes. For example, /s/ represents the “sssss” sound.

- If your child struggles to hear the alliteration in a phrase or sentence, practice with words beginning with the following sounds: /f/, /h/, /l/, /m/, /n/, /s/, /v/, /z/. These sounds can be drawn out to emphasize their placement at the beginning of each word. Come up with simple phrases where the words all begin with the same sound. Say the phrase and have your child repeat it back, drawing out the beginning sound.
Example: “Sssneaky sssnakes ssslide and ssslither.”
- Ask your child to think of words to describe the objects they see. Tell your child the word used has to start with the same sound as the word they are describing.
Examples: “delicious donut,” “bouncy ball,” “green grass”
- Play a game where you and your child take turns finding objects around the house to use in silly alliteration sentences. See who can use the most words beginning with the same sound in their sentence.
Example: “Sister’s stinky sock smells sour.”

- Have your child think of silly names for themselves, family, and friends. The new names must be at least three words long, and all the words in the name must begin with the same sound as the person's regular name.

Examples: "audible Audrey Octopus," "hairy helpful Henry,"
"creative character Kim," and "picky pal Parker"

- Practice tongue twisters.

Familiar tongue twisters:

- Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.
- He sells seashells by the seashore.
- How much wood would a woodchuck chuck?

Phonological Awareness Activities: Sentence Segmentation Activities

Use any board game and pieces you have available at home (Candyland, Chutes and Ladders, Life, Monopoly, etc.). Tell your child you will take turns saying a sentence. For every word in the sentence, the other player will move one space. Take turns giving the sentences and moving pieces. The first player to the end wins.

- Recite a nursery rhyme line by line to your child. After each line, ask your child how many words were heard in that line.

Example: "Do you know the Muffin Man,"

"6 words!"

"Who lives on Drury Lane?"

"5 words!"

Alternate version: Recite a favorite poem verse or song lyric to your child. Have your child clap for each word heard in each line.

Familiar Nursery Rhymes:

Mary Had a Little Lamb
Baa, Baa, Black Sheep
Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star
Hey, Diddle, Diddle
Jack and Jill
I'm a Little Teapot
The Muffin Man
This Little Piggy
Three Blind Mice
Itsy Bitsy Spider
Old McDonald Had a Farm

Phonological Awareness Activities: Syllable Activities

- Show your child pictures of family members and friends. Ask your child to say the name of the person, then to count the number of syllables in each name. If your child has trouble identifying syllables, have him/her place their hand under their chin and say the name again. Each time the chin drops, it is a syllable!
- Play “Jumping Syllables” with your child. Model how to play the game by giving them a two-syllable word. As you say each syllable, open your right hand, then your left hand. Then cross your hands, showing how you are jumping the syllables to make a new, silly word.

Example: “pen/cil” becomes “cil/pen”

Phonological Awareness Activities: Onset and Rime Activities

Note: An onset is the beginning consonant or consonants. The rime contains the vowel and any remaining consonants.

- Play a word guessing game with your child. Give your child clues one at a time, describing the onset and rime. Once your child understands how to play, take turns giving the clues.

Examples: “It begins with the /r/ sound and rhymes with ‘bug’.”

(rug) “It begins like ‘bed’ and ends like ‘rest’.” (best)

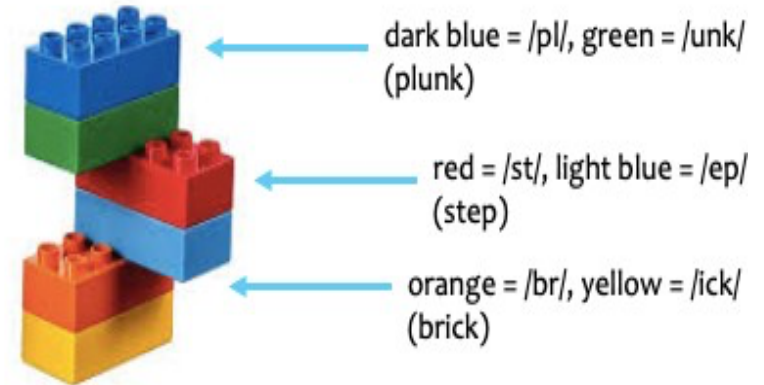
“It ends with /op/ and begins like ‘tool’.” (top)

- Turn words into a math problem. Ask your child to solve the equation to build words, using onset and rime. Examples: “What plus ‘et’ makes the word *net*?” (/n/)

“/h/ plus what makes the word *hippo*?” (ippo)

- Use different colored building blocks to represent onset sounds and rime sounds. Lock different block combinations together, and say what word is represented. Change the onset blocks to make rhyming words, change the rime block to make new words.

Examples:



- Roll a dice. Take turns brainstorming words with as many syllables as the number rolled.
- Think of an animal. Identify the number of syllables in that animal's name, then brainstorm types of food with the same number of syllables which you could feed that animal.

Phonological Awareness Activities: Phoneme Activities

Note: Phoneme Activities should be done in the order listed. Follow the arrow to move down the phoneme mastery progression.

- Give your child a list of three words and ask him/her to identify which two begin with the same sound. Example: "Which words begin with the same sound: *paper*, *pickle*, or *dish*?"
- While running errands or playing outside, name different items you see. Ask your child to tell you the first sound heard in each word you give. After your child can successfully tell you the beginning sound, have him/her tell you the last sound.
Examples: "What is the first sound in *road*?" "/r/"
"What is the ending sound in *road*?" "/d/"
- Brainstorm simple words and ask your child to tell you what middle sound is heard. Examples: "What is the middle sound in *sun*?" "/u/"
"What is the middle sound in *hatch*?" "/a/"

Turn words into a cheer. Use the following cheer to practice breaking words into their sounds. Replace the words you use each time you cheer.

Cheer: "Listen to my cheer, then shout the sounds you hear.

Cat! Cat! Cat! (Note: These are the words you will change.) Give me the beginning sound! /c/

Give me the middle sound!

/a/ Give me the ending sound! /t/ That's right!

/c/ /a/ /t/ - *Cat! Cat! Cat!*

Using pennies, small toys, different colored blocks, or other similar materials, push an object toward your child for each sound in the word you are thinking of while making the sound. Ask your child to put the sounds together and tell you what word you just said. After he/she can successfully blend the sounds together, ask your child to break words apart into their separate sounds.

Examples: "What word am I saying? /ch/ /a/ /t/" "*Chat.*"

"What are the sounds in *chat*?" "/ch/ /a/ /t/."

Play a word ladder game with your child. See how many words you can make by changing one sound at a time. Add sounds to the beginning or end of the word. Once your child can successfully add sounds, change the sounds to make new words.

Example 1: "Say *top*. What word do you have if you add /s/ to the beginning?" "*Stop.*"

"Say *stop*. What word do you have if you add /t/ to the end?"

"*Stopped.*"

Example 2: "Say *dog*. Change the /d/ to /f/. What is your new word?"

"*Fog.*"

"Say *fog*. Change the /g/ to /l/. What is your new word?" "*Fall.*"

Play Robot Talk with your child. Tell your child you will say a word like a robot, and he/she needs to guess what you are saying. To sound like a robot, break the word into individual sounds, and say it in a silly robot voice to make it more fun.

What is *phonics*?

Phonics is the ability to understand the relationship between letters and the sounds they represent. This includes:

- recognizing print patterns that represent sounds;
- syllable patterns; and
- word parts (prefixes, suffixes, and roots).

What can students who are strong in *phonics* do?

Students who excel in phonics can easily and accurately decode (or sound out) new and unfamiliar words, because they have knowledge and understanding of



letter sounds and how letters and letter patterns work together to make different sounds. Older students can use word parts to figure out the meaning of new and unfamiliar words.

Vowels

a, e, i, o, u, y

Consonants

b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t,
v, w, x, y, z

Common Consonant Digraphs and Blends

bl, br, ch, ck, cl, cr, dr, fl, fr, gh, gl, gr,
ng, ph, pl, pr,
qu, sc, sh, sk, sl, sm, sn, sp, st, sw,
th, tr, tw, wh, wr

Common Vowel Teams

ai, au, aw, ay, ea, ee, ei, eu, ew, ey,
ie, oi, oo, ou, ow, oy

Phonics Activities: Letter-Sound Recognition Activities

- Write a letter on one end of each popsicle stick. On two or three other popsicle sticks, write KABOOM. Put all sticks letter-end down in a cup. Take turns pulling popsicle sticks from the cup. Each time you pull a stick, say the letter name and the sound the letter makes. If a KABOOM stick is drawn, that player must put all their sticks back into the cup. The game is over when all letter sticks have been pulled.
- Identify which letters and sounds your child needs help with. Write the focus letters on sticky notes and stick them to bowls (one bowl for each letter). Collect small toys and objects from around the house. Have your child say the name of the object, identify the beginning sound, and sort into the bowl with the letter that corresponds to the sound.
- Place magnetic letter tiles on the refrigerator. Call out letter names or letter sounds, and have your child swat the appropriate magnet with a spatula.
- Write letters on sticky notes, and spread them out across a tabletop. Say a letter sound and have your child swat the letter that makes the sound.
Alternate version: Once your child learns all the letter sounds, you can say a word and have your child swat the letters that spell the word (in order).
- Use sidewalk chalk to draw a hopscotch formation. In each box, write a letter. On the squares that go two across, write the letters found in digraphs or blends. When your child jumps on a square, he/she will say the letter's name and sound. When your child jumps on the crossbar, he/she will say the name and sound of the letter in the left box, then the right box, then shout the sound the digraph or blend makes together.
Alternate version: Play the game with only vowels, but have your child give the long and short vowel sounds. Crossbars can have vowel digraphs.
- Have your child use play clay to roll out and make the shapes of different letters. Call out the name or sound of the letters and watch them build the letter shapes.

Phonics Activities: Word Blending Activities

- Cut a toilet paper roll or paper towel roll in half. On one half, write consonants or consonant blends spaced around the edge. On the other half, write rimes spaced around the edge. Put the pieces on the bottom of a wire clothes hanger. Have your child spin the rolls to make new words.
- Stack three Styrofoam or plastic cups. On the first cup, choose six consonants to write around the outside edge. On the middle cup, write the five vowels around the outside edge. On the third cup, write 6 consonants around the outside edge. Have your child spin the cups to create new words to read.
 - ↓ *Alternate version 1:* Replace the vowels on the middle cup with vowel digraphs.
 - Alternate version 2:* Replace the consonants on the first and last cups with digraphs, blends, or trigraphs.
 - Alternate version 3:* Add a fourth cup. Write *e, s, es, d, ed, ing* around the edge to create new words.
- Play word building board games such as Scrabble®, Boggle®, or Word Up® with your child.
- Write the names of six different letters on notecards or square pieces of paper, being sure to use vowels and consonants. Play a game with your child to see who can create the most words out of the letters given.
- Use magnetic letter tiles to practice reading word family words. Place two magnets beside one another to make a word family word. Let your child add different letters to the beginning of the word family letters to make new words. Have your child read the words fluently before building a new word.
- Spread a small amount of shaving cream on a table or countertop. Call out letter names or letter sounds and have your child write the appropriate letter in the shaving cream.
- Using letter beads, have your child make word jewelry by stringing together different beads on string or pipe cleaners to make words.

Phonics Activities: Multisyllable Words Activities

- Write the most common English syllables on notecards. Hold the cards up and have your child practice reading the syllables.
- Have your child use newspapers, magazines, and books to hunt for words with a specific syllable. Have your child read the words and keep a list of all the words they collected for each syllable.
Example: “Look! I found *table* and *apple* to go under Consonant-le, because *ta/ble* and *ap/ple* both have consonants followed by the letters -le in the second syllable!”
- Write the most common English syllables on different sticky notes. Have your child put stickies together to create words (real or nonsense). Have your child practice reading the words they make.
Alternate version: Have your child only make real words from the syllable stickies. After building the words, have your child read the words fluently.
- Using a muffin tin with six cups, label each cup with a different syllable type. Write the most common English syllables on small pieces of paper and have your child sort them into the correct cup.

6 Syllable Types:

Closed (VC, CVC)
Magic 'e' (VCe)
Open (V, CV)
Vowel Digraph
R-Controlled
Consonant-le (c-le)

- **Closed Syllables (CVC, VC, CCVCC, etc.)**—always associated with a “short” vowel sound, e.g., *lal, lel, lil, lol, lul*: *let, pad, rod, tin, fun, pic-nic, un-til*
- **Magic ‘E’ Syllables (V-C-E)**—always associated with a “long” vowel sound, e.g., *lael, leel, liel, loel, luel*: *cake, home, like, mule, Pete, mis-tak, stam-pede*
- **Vowel Digraph Syllables:** *joint, speak, proud, play, dis-may, be-low, coun-sel*
- **R-Controlled Syllables:** *art, curb, girl, fort, clerk, tur-nip, ar-tist, fe-ver*
- **Open Syllables (V or CV)**—always associated with a “long” vowel sound, e.g., *lael, leel, liel, loel, luel*: *go, me, hi, a-pron, fi-nal, com-pre-hend*
- **Consonant –LE Syllables (C-LE):** *sim-ple, puz-zle, raff-le, ca-ble, ri-fle*

What is *fluency*?

Fluency is the ability to read with sufficient speed to support understanding. This includes:

- automatic word recognition;
- accurate word recognition; and
- use of expression.



What can *fluent* students do?

Fluency and comprehension. When students can read fluently, it allows the brain to have more space to comprehend the message of the text.

Fluency Activities: Everyday Fluency Activities

- Read to your child! When you read aloud with your child, you are giving him/her a model of what fluent reading sounds like. No matter his/her age, it is important for your child to hear fluent reading.
- Find opportunities for your child to listen and follow along with audio recordings. Websites such as Storyline Online (<https://www.storylineonline.net>) have a variety of recorded stories. Visit your local library to check out the book versions so your child can read along.

- Practice echo reading with your child. Use a less familiar story or text and read small chunks of sentences, using your finger to track what you are reading. After you finish, let your child echo what you just read, tracking the words. Encourage your child to use the exact same speed and voice tone you used. This is a great activity to use with poetry!

- Reread the same story several times. Repeated reading of a story helps your child to become familiar with the words and sound they make when they are read fluently. You can also encourage your child to reread the same story multiple times, using a timer to see how quickly your child reads each time, while focusing on accuracy as he/she goes through the text.

- Encourage your child to read CKLA decodable reader.

Fluency Activities: High Frequency Word Activities

- Write targeted high frequency words on a blank tic-tac-toe board drawn on notebook or printer paper. Using coins for chips, call out high frequency words and have your child cover them with a chip. When he/she gets five in a row, have your child read the words out to check for accuracy and to win.
- Write your child's high frequency words on notecards or squares of construction paper. As your child reads, separate the words into a "Words I Can Read" pile and a "Words I Need Help With" pile. Review the cards in the "Words I Need Help With" pile before trying again.

Fry's 1st 100 Words

a, about, all, an, and, are, as, at, be, been, but, by, called, can, come, could, day, did, do, down, each, find, first, for, from, get, go, had, has, have, he, her, him, his, how, I, if, in, into, is, it, like, long, look, made, make, many, may, more, my, no, not, now, number, of, oil, on, one, or, other, out, part, people, see, said, see, she, sit, so, some, than, that, the, their, them, then, there, these, they, this, time, to, two, up, use, was, water, way, we, were, what, when, which, who, will, with, words, would, write, you, you

Fry's 2nd 100 Words

After, again, air, also, America, animal, another, answer, any, around, ask, away, back, because, before, big, boy, came, change, different, does, end, even, follow, form, found, give, good, great, hand, help, here, home, house, just, kind, know, land, large, learn, letter, line, little, live, man, me, means, men, most, mother, move, much, must, name, need, new, off, old, only, our, over, page, picture, place, play, point, put, read, right, same, say, sentence, set, should, show, small, sound, spell, still, study, such, take, tell, things, think, three, through, too, try, turn, us, very, want, well, went, where, why, work, world, years

Fry's 3rd 100 Words

Above, add, almost, along, always, began, begin, being, below, between, book, both, car, carry, children, city, close, country, cut, don't, earth, eat, enough, every, example, eyes, face, family, far, father, feet, few, food, four, girl, got, group, grow, hard, head, hear, high, idea, important, Indian, it's keep, last, late, leave, left, let, life, light, lists, might, mile, miss, mountains, near, never, next, night, often, once, open, own, paper, plant, real, river, run, saw, school, sea, second, seem, side, something, sometimes, song, soon, start, state, stop, story, talk, those, thought, together, took, tree, under, until, walk, watch, while, white, without, young

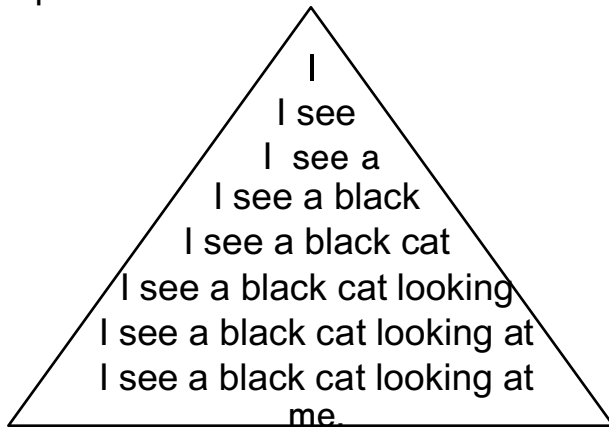
Fluency Activities: Fluent Phrase Reading Activities

- Print or write out on notebook paper the lyrics of your child's favorite songs (make sure to copy the short phrases exactly). Have your child practice reading a single line until he/she can read it smoothly, then move onto the next.

Alternate version: This activity can also be done with poetry or rhyming books. Shel Silverstein, Jack Prelutsky, Bill Martin Jr., Sandra Boynton, Dr. Seuss, and Anna Dewdney are a few of the many authors whose poems and books work with this activity.

- Draw a large triangle on a piece of paper. Think of a sentence you want your child to practice reading (this can be a sentence you make up, or one from a text). In the triangle, write a line for each word in the sentence, adding a word from the sentence on each line. Have your child read through the entire triangle, until he/she can read the final sentence fluently.

Examples:



- When you read with your child, listen for where natural breaks happen. There is a musical quality to fluent reading – finding the phrasing in language can help your child break longer sentences into smaller chunks, making it easier to read.

- Write common phrases on notecards. Have your child practice reading the cards individually. When he/she can read them fluently, lay cards out side-by-side to make a train of phrases and have your child practice fluently reading a longer version.

Fluency Activities: Fluent Passage Reading Activities

- Find a page from your child's favorite book. Using a pencil, draw lines between the words where you hear a natural break. Have your child practice reading the entire passage, chunking together the words between the pencil lines as he/she reads. Once your child can fluently read the phrases, erase the pencil marks and have your child fluently read the passage.

Example: "From then on, / every afternoon, / as soon as her mother / had left for bingo, / Matilda would toddle / down to the library. // The walk took

/ only ten minutes / and this allowed her / two glorious hours / sitting quietly / by herself / in a cozy corner / devouring one book after another. // When she had read / every single children's book / in the place, / she started wandering round / in search of something else."

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Some examples of common phrases

are: "at the house,"
"here and there,"
"some of the people,"
"in a while,"
"must be his,"
"they need help,"
"I like it,"
"want to go,"
"it is like,"
"they want to,"
"near the end"



What is **vocabulary**?

Vocabulary refers to students' knowledge of and memory for word meanings. This includes:

- *receptive vocabulary* (words students understand when they are read or spoken to); and
- *expressive vocabulary* (words students know well enough to use in speaking and writing).



What can students with strong **vocabulary** do?

Having a large receptive and expressive vocabulary assists students with their reading comprehension. A strong vocabulary improves all areas of communication – listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Vocabulary Activities: Everyday Vocabulary Activities

- Read aloud to your child! Even after your child can read on their own, continue to read to him/her. Choose books above your child's reading level, which typically have a broader vocabulary. Through read alouds and talking about the book using words from the text, you are actually teaching your child new words and how they are used.
- Talk as much as possible about what you see, wherever you are. Have a conversation with your child at the store, describing the items you see. Using words such as first, next, and last, describe the process for pumping gas at the station. Talk about what you taste, smell, feel, and see as you follow a new recipe to make dinner.

- Watch favorite movies and television shows with your child with a focus on listening for big words to start using at home. Add these words into your everyday conversations with your child.

Example: “Remember how in Power Rangers they *morphed*, and that meant they changed into superheroes? Can you *morph* into your school clothes?”

Vocabulary Activities: Learning Word Meaning Activities

- Use pictures from magazines, advertisements, and newspapers to create word collages to show the meanings of new and difficult words. Having a picture to think about will help your child remember the meaning of the word.
- Write targeted vocabulary words on sticky notes and place them on a checkerboard. Play checkers together. When you land on a space with a vocabulary word, give the definition of the word and use it in a sentence to claim it.
- Using a ball or soft stuffed animal, play “Vocabulary Hot Potato.” The person starting with the “potato” will call out a word, passing the “potato” while music plays. The person who ends up holding the “potato” when the music stops must give a definition and use the word in a sentence.

Vocabulary Activities: Synonym and Antonym Activities

- Say a word. Take turns brainstorming words that mean the same thing as the word that was named.
Alternate version: Brainstorm words that mean the opposite of the word that was named.

**What are
synonyms?** a word
or phrase that means
exactly or nearly the
same as another word
or phrase Example:
close and *shut*

**What are
antonyms?** a word
opposite in meaning
to another
Example: *good* and *bad*

- Create a family “Tired Word” jar. Pick a few commonly overused words to go in the jar, such as *good* or *sad*. Listen for family members using the “Tired Words,” and encourage your child to think of more specific words to replace the “Tired Word.”

Example: “I had a *good* day; I made a 100 on my vocabulary test!” “Don’t use that tired word! Use another word!”
“I had an *excellent* day; I made a 100 on my vocabulary test!”

Vocabulary Activities: Word Connection Activities

- Practice vocabulary in the kitchen! Pick an ingredient and brainstorm as many words as you can to describe what it looks like, tastes like, feels like, and smells like. Discuss what other recipes use the same ingredient.
- Play a word association game with your child. Call out a category name and take turns brainstorming other words that make you think of the category word.

Example: “The category is ‘places to go on vacation’.” “The beach!” “Theme parks!”

Alternate version: Write down the words as they are brainstormed. Afterward, have your child sort the words into other categories, based on their similarities. Have him/her explain what is similar about all the words in their new categories.

Example: “I put *train*, *monorail*, *boats*, and *strollers* in the same category because they are all types of transportation people use at theme parks.”

Vocabulary Activities: Affixes Activities

- Using newspapers, magazines, cookbooks, or storybooks, have your child hunt for words with the targeted prefix or suffix, writing the words your child finds on a piece of paper. Once he/she has found several words, have your child break the words into the affix and the root and explain what the word means.

Example: “I found the word *unthinkable*! If I break it into the root and affixes, it is *un-think-able*. That means that if something is *unthinkable*, you are not able to think of it.”

- Use craft supplies and items found around the house to make a tree. It can be drawn or 3D. At the bottom of the tree, have your child write or attach a card with a prefix or suffix on it. Write or add cards on the branches with words that have the targeted affix in it. Have your child explain what each word on the tree means, using the affix as a clue.

Example: “My prefix is *mis-*, and it means ‘wrong.’ So then *misjudge* means to judge wrongly, and *misbehave* means you behaved wrongly.”

- Write different roots, suffixes, and prefixes on building blocks. Have your child put together different blocks to make words using different pieces. Have him/her write the complete word on a larger building block.

Example:

un	stop	able
unstoppable		

The Most Common Prefixes

anti-, de-, dis-, en-, em-, fore-,
in-, im-, il-, ir-, inter-, mid-,
mis-,
non-, over-, pre-, re-, semi-,
sub-, super-, trans-, un-,
under-

The Most Common Suffixes

-able, -al, -ation, -ative, -ed,
-eous, -en, -er, -es, -est, -ful, -

What is *comprehension*?

Comprehension is the ability to understand and draw meaning from text. Comprehension is the ultimate goal of reading. Students who easily comprehend what they just read are more likely to enjoy reading. They are also more effective readers, which helps them academically and in their personal lives.



What can students with strong *comprehension* do?

Students with strong comprehension skills can easily understand and remember what they are reading. They can retell important facts or events from a text to others while leaving the unimportant details out.

Comprehension Activities: Before Reading Activities

- Take a picture walk with your child. Have your child go page-by-page through the book and look at all the illustrations, including the cover image. Ask your child what they think is going to happen in the book based on what he/she sees. Who does your child think the story will be about? What does he/she think is going to happen? How does your child think the story will end?

Alternate version: If you are reading a non-fiction text, have your child look at the different text features to help him/her make predictions about the text.

What is non-fiction?

Writing that is based on facts, real events, and real people, such as biography or history

What is fiction?

stories that describe imaginary events and people

- Set a purpose for reading. It might be to learn something new or to enjoy a story together. Having a reason for reading can encourage reluctant readers to open a book!
- If you are reading a chapter book with your child over several days, have your child give you a recap of what has already happened in the story before starting the new chapter.
- If you are reading a non-fiction text, have a discussion with your child to learn what he/she already knows about the topic. Ask your child if there are any questions about the topic they hope to find answers to as they read the book.
- Read the title of the text to your child. Ask him/her what the title makes them think of – a movie, a television show, another story, or an event from their own life.

What are *text-features*?

Text features are all of the parts of a story or article that are not the main text. They include the table of contents, index, glossary, headings, bold words, sidebars, pictures, captions, and labeled diagrams.

Comprehension Activities: During Reading Activities

- While reading a text, pause every few pages to check your child's understanding of what is being read. Ask *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, *why*, and *how* questions. If your child does not know, reread or use pictures to help prompt his/her response.
- While reading, ask your child if what is being read is causing them to think of questions they want answered further in the text.

Examples: "I wonder where else Junie B might be hiding scissors since her mom took her first pair away. I don't think she is done cutting hair yet!"

"It says that Dalmatian puppies are born all white, and then develop spots as they grow older. I wonder if zebras are born all white and develop stripes as they grow older?"

- Help your child learn how to infer meaning from what is not said in the text. When a character has a major event, ask your child to think about how the character might feel, or what their next steps might be based on what he/she has already done in the story.
- If you are reading a chapter book together, have your child summarize what happened at the end of each chapter.
- When reading both fiction and non-fiction texts, it can be helpful to have your child sequence the events of the story by saying what happened first, next, then, and last to better understand what is happening.
- Encourage your child to visualize the characters, setting, or events from the book he/she is reading. Ask your child to describe, using details from the text, what he/she pictures when reading the story.
- Have your child look back at the predictions made prior to reading the story. Ask your child if his/her predictions came true. If not, ask your child to make new predictions based on what was read

Comprehension Activities: After Reading Activities

- After reading a story, have your child tell you what happened. Ask your child to include details on the main characters, the setting, and the major events. Encourage your child to retell the story in the correct sequence of events.
- Ask your child to write a letter to the main character in the text. Have your child write about his/her favorite part of the book and include any questions he/she might still have after reading.
- Ask your child if he/she liked how the story ended. Ask your child to write or describe a different ending to the story. Encourage your child to think of an ending that makes sense with the rest of the story.

- Create a story bag. Use a grocery bag, gift bag, or brown paper lunch sack and fill it with items from around the house that will help your child to retell what they read.

Example: "I read *Fancy Nancy*. In my bag I have glitter because glitter is fancy, and Nancy loves fancy things. I also have an advertisement from the newspaper because Nancy makes an advertisement for her family for fancy lessons. I cut this picture out from a magazine of a lady in a fancy dress because Nancy and her family got dressed up to go to dinner. Then I have a washcloth because Nancy spilled parfait all over herself and had to take a bath. And finally, I have a Hershey's Kiss© because at the end of the story Nancy's mom and dad give her a kiss in bed and tell her they love her."

- If you have read the story together, ask your child to come up with test questions for you about the book. Let your child grade your test to see how well you did.
- If your child has read a non-fiction text, have him/her look online, in newspapers, and in magazines for more information on the book's topic. Have your child decide if the different texts give similar or different information about the topic.

Questions to Ask After Reading:

Who do you think is the most important character in this story? Why?

What do you think is the most important thing the author wanted you to know about _____?

What is one fact you learned from this text?

What clues in the pictures showed you how the character was feeling?

Did you like this book? Why or why not?

Reading Tips to Help Your Child Succeed

- Make reading part of every day, even for just a few minutes. Find the parts of your day where you can add time to read, and areas where you can keep books, so they are always available.
- Talk about the pictures in books. You do not have to read the book to tell a story.
- Choose books about events in your child's life, such as starting school, going to the dentist, or taking care of pets.
- Ask questions about the story. What do you think will happen next? What is this? How does this character feel?
- Let your child ask questions about the story. Talk about familiar activities and objects.
- Read the story using different voices for each of the characters. Have fun!
- Show your child the cover page and explain what the story is about.
- Let your child turn the pages when you read together.
- Run your finger along the words from left to right on the page as you read them.
- Let your child retell the story.
- Visit your local library often!