



# Helping Your Children with Comprehension Skills

---

*Comprehension is the ability to apply understanding and meaning to what has been read. It includes skills such as listening, retelling, predicting, summarizing, evaluating, and identifying the main idea. Good readers connect their prior knowledge with the text and can easily communicate those thoughts and ideas to others. A good reader will take action and use strategies to fix comprehension when confused. Good readers think as they read, and make connections to real life, the world, and other things they have read. They use their imagination as they read and make predictions.*

## **Actions and questions that help demonstrate comprehension:**

*Ask your child to do these things or answer these questions.*

Retell the story as if you haven't heard it before.

Tell about the main character.

What is the problem? How was it solved?

What is the setting?

What is an important part of the book?

What does the book remind you of from your own life?

Ask open-ended questions.

- What would happen if...?
- If you were the character...?
- Why does the character...?

Form opinions and support them.

- What did you like about...? Why?
- What did you think about...? Why?
- I wonder if you think this is a good story—Why or why not?

Make predictions.

- What do you think this book will be about? Why?
- What might happen next? Why?

Practice summarizing.

- Have your child tell about what he/she read in his/her own words; draw a picture, or act out the story.

What is the main idea of the book?

- Find the main idea when reading. Have your child tell the purpose or the point of what has been read. What is the author trying to tell us or what is the message? Remember, the main idea is supported by details.

What else do you want to know?

What is an interesting detail?

What does \_\_\_\_\_ mean?

What did you learn from this reading?

Summarize the most important things about what you read.