

## What Can You Say Besides "Sound It Out"?

To help a child use meaning (of the story or illustrations)	Look at the picture to help yourself. Think about what would make sense.
To help a child use language structure (the way we talk)	Does that sound right? Can we say it that way?
To help a child use information in print (the way the word looks)	Look at the way the word begins. Read the words up to the tricky word and start it. Say more of the word. Does that look right to you?
To help a child use sources of information	Think about what would look right and make sense. Think about what would make sense and start like that.
A frustrated reader is not going to take necessary risks to improve (after 5 seconds say the word & praise the attempt)	I like the way you tried to help yourself. You were nearly right. You noticed it wasn't right. What did you notice?

**A good children's book is three times richer in vocabulary than conversation alone.**

## Reading on the Go

- Listen to audio books in the car. These can be checked out from your local libraries!
- Keep a basket of books or children's magazines in the car for running errands or for waiting in a waiting room.

## Talking Books with Your Child

Possible Conversation Starters	Strategies/Skills
Look at the cover. What do you think the story will be about?	Predicting
Tell me what has happened so far in this book.	Summarizing, Comprehending
What do you think will happen next?	Predicting Outcomes
Stop before the end and predict the ending.	Predicting Outcomes
Is this story Reality or Fantasy? How can you tell?	Drawing Conclusions
Draw or tell about the main character. What kind of person is he/she? How do you know?	Identifying Character Traits
What is the setting of the story?	Identifying Story Elements
Did the main character learn a lesson in the book? If so, what is it?	Examining Theme, Citing Evidence from the Text

**A reader is like an athlete. The more a child reads, the better his/her reading becomes!**

## Reading Around the House

Leave short notes around the house to compliment (Thanks for helping with the dishes.) or remind (Please hang me up. Signed, your towel.) your child. Look for unique places to put the notes, such as on pillows, by toothbrushes, on the cereal box, etc.

# WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?

Student A Reads	Student B Reads	Student C Reads
❖ 20 minutes per day.	❖ 5 minutes per day.	❖ 1 minute per day
❖ 3,600 minutes per school year.	❖ 900 minutes per school year.	❖ 180 minutes per school year.
❖ 1,800,000 words per year.	❖ 282,000 words per year.	❖ 8,000 words per year.
		
❖ Scores in the 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 10 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.

If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3.

(Nagy and Herman, 1987.)

**WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.**

## Talking = School Success!

Strong language skills can make your child a better reader, writer, and all around student!

- During family conversations, ask your child questions that will require him to expand on his responses, such as "What happened next?" or "Why do you think that is?" Questions such as these will teach your child to talk about events and to give an opinion.
- While engaging in everyday activities such as cooking or driving, talk to your child about what you are doing. Using unfamiliar words in everyday settings will help students understand words in books. Example: "I need the colander so that I can drain the spaghetti." If your child doesn't know the word, explain, "This is a colander. Water drains through the holes."

## Be a Reading Buddy

- Be your child's reading buddy. Set aside time to sit next to your child and read together.
- Read aloud to your child and continue to do so beyond the point when he can read independently.
- Find a series. Children who like one book in a series will probably enjoy others in the series as well.
- Read fiction as well as informational books about topics of interest to your child.
- Make reading purposeful. Link reading to activities you are doing like cooking or reading a menu.