Hello and Welcome Back from your Reading Teacher!  
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The Literacy Corner

How to Help Your Kids Read It and Get It!

Those words are part of the fabulous book written for parents—7 Keys to Comprehension, How to Help Your Kids Read It and Get It! This book, by Susan Zimmermann and Chryse Hutchins takes the mystery out of comprehension strategies. As we know, reading is all about understanding what we read. Real comprehension has to do with thinking, learning, and expanding our knowledge. Proficient readers build on past knowledge, master new information, and draw conclusions.

Reading comprehension is much more than sounding out words—in fact, decoding itself, without understanding is not reading. These seven important strategies that support comprehension are: Creating Mental Images, Using Background Knowledge, Asking Questions, Making Inferences, Determining Important Ideas or Themes, Synthesizing Information, and Using Fix-Up Strategies.

While these strategies are distinct, as proficient readers we apply them without giving the process much thought. For many readers, this doesn’t come automatically. We need to explicitly teach and talk about these strategies.

Throughout the course of this year, I’ll provide you with some information on each of the comprehension strategies and offer some easy ways in which you might be able to support your child as he or she navigates the world of print.

For now, my advice is to read to and with your child for a minutes each day. Make your thinking visible—talk about what you’re reading. Share the thoughts that are passing through your mind. When your child sees that you interact with the print and think about it, he will come to understand that it is a normal process; one that they will come to apply as automatically as you do.

Happy Reading!

Donna Salussolía

“Reading is to the mind, what exercise is to the body.” (Sir Richard Steele, 1672-1729)