

Have conversations to build comprehension



Comprehension is an essential part of effective reading. Imagine reading something without understanding what it means. It would be pointless!

To ensure your child comprehends her reading, have conversations with her about what she's reading. You should talk:

- **Before reading.** Ask questions to focus your child's thinking about the book she will read. "That book looks like it will be really interesting! What do you think will happen based on the cover? What did you learn about the book by reading the back cover?"
- **While reading.** Help your child work through challenging words or sections. "Can you figure out what that word means from other words in the sentence or the pictures?" "Let's look that word's definition



up later. Then we can reread the paragraph, and I bet it will make more sense."

- **After reading.** Review what your child just read and ask questions to help her demonstrate her understanding. "How did the story end? Who were your favorite characters and why? If you could change the ending, what would you make it?"