



Guidance for KS2 Parents

Ways to help your child

The best way to develop comprehension is to discuss with your child what they have read or even watched. Talking builds and models vocabulary and understanding - asking questions allows your child to process what they have read and to express their opinions.

Before they read

Prediction is a good way of helping your child to develop their understanding of narrative and other text types. It also helps children to build connections across their reading and see comprehension as part of a wider picture.

- Why have you chosen this book?
- What do you think it will be about?
- Why do you think that?
- Who and what is it for (its main purpose)
- Have you read any other books which were similar?
- In what ways do you think this will be similar/different to the last book you read?

While they read

If you are able to sit and listen to your child read, these are useful tips.

- To avoid literal questioning - look for questions that begin with how or why.
- Try to encourage children to develop and explain their answers with reference to the text. Are they using the magic word "BECAUSE?"
- Follow up with why do you think that / how do you know?

After they have read

If you don't have the opportunity or time to sit and listen to your child read, there are still a number of useful questioning techniques you could use to check and develop their understanding.

- Tell me about what you have read - in a couple of sentences, what was the main idea?
- What was the purpose of the text?
- What have you found out that you didn't know before?
- What was the feeling or mood of the chapter?
- What has changed - how was it different from other chapters or sections?
- What do you think will happen next?