

5. Reading Skills

Key reading skills developed throughout primary school

- **Question**: helps readers to engage with the text and clarify any misunderstandings.
- **Infer**: use clues from the text and our prior knowledge to work out something the author does not tell us.
- **Predict**: predict what will happen next based on what you already know.
- **Clarify**: when something does not make sense in a text, stop to think and talk about it to improve understanding.
- **Evaluate**: form opinions, make judgements and develop ideas based on what you have read.
- **Summarise**: sequence a text, recalling the main points and ideas.
- **Make connections**: make sense of a text by making connections with previous experiences and more familiar texts.

However, Rome was not built in a day. To build on your child's early reading skills, think about:

- Predicting what will happen next.
- Summarising or sequencing what happens in a story or section of a story.
- Describing characters and settings.
- Comparing aspects of one story to another.



Examples of prediction

- Stop at an exciting part of a story and ask what your child thinks will happen next.
- However, it doesn't have to be a question. You could say: I think... or I predict that... Saying what you think first can open up ideas for your child to give his/her opinion.
- Also, talk about why that idea could or could not be a possibility. Model thinking out loud, connecting to information you already know from the story.



Examples of summarising

- At the end of the story, give a brief summary of what happened. Sentence starters such as: first, then, next, later, afterwards and finally can help to structure summaries.
- It can be helpful to flick through the pages of the book while your child summarises. It will help jog her/his memory.
- You could take turns summarise different parts of the story.



Examples of describing

- Talk about your favourite character from a story: I like... because. Then, ask your child about his/her favourite character.
- Describing characters can include describing their appearance, personality, strengths and weaknesses.
- Describing a setting can include its appearance as well as how you think it might feel or smell.
- Talk about why the story took part in a particular setting. Could you change the setting?



Examples of comparing

- You can compare characters in a book, discussing their positive and negative attributes.
- Compare what happens in one story with what happens in another similar story or something that has happened in real-life.
- Compare things you liked and disliked about different books and aspects of books.



Why?

- Once your child is familiar with a story, he/she will use ideas from it in their own play and stories.
- Children can use familiar stories to structure their own stories. For example, keeping some of the original ideas but changing the characters.
- Developing the early reading skills discussed here will help to build your child's confidence in discussing books and develop a curiosity.



Have a go!

- Have a go at some of the reading tips mentioned in this Power point.
- The next set of Power points will start to look at early phonics skills.

