

## Why read at home with your child?

Dear Parents and Guardians,

There are many ways to interact with your child as you read together at home. My goal is to have your child understand what he or she reads. Below are the interactive strategies we use in school to build understanding. By reinforcing these strategies at home will help support your child's understanding of what he or she is reading.

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### Making Connections:

When your child *uses* his or her personal experiences, interests, and relationships to his or her reading, your child makes connections to the text that help him or her comprehend what is being read.

#### Tips to use at home:

1. Help your child activate his or her background knowledge by having them look at the cover of the book and title. Then ask if it makes him or her think about something.
2. When reading with your child, stop and say things such as, "That reminds me of..." or "That makes me think of..."

3. Make the different types of connections to the text:

*Text-to-self:* When what you read reminds you of something from your own life.

*Text-to-text:* When what you read reminds you of some other book you've read or of a movie, television, or something you have seen.

*Text-to-World:* When something you read reminds you of some place, event, or issue in the world.

4. Help your child build background knowledge by talking with him or her, visiting museums and new places, taking him or her to the library often to borrow books on topics that interest your child.

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### Visualizing:

It is when your child creates mental images in his or her head. Your child should also be creating sensory images of smells, tastes, sounds, and feelings. Reading should be like creating a "movie" in your head.

#### Tips to use at home:

1. Read together with your child and stop to share the sensory images you have created in your mind. Point out specific words or phrases

that helped you create these images.

2. After sharing your sensory images, allow your child to share their own. It's good if your child's image is different from yours. This lets your child see how an individual's own experiences can allow a reader to see things in their own way.

3. Act out a part of a story to show what it looks like in your mind. Then let your child act out a part.

4. Draw a picture of part of the story to show what you saw in your mind. Have your child draw a picture of the same part and discuss what you both saw.

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## Questioning:

Questions take your child deeper into his or her reading. Questions show that your child is thinking. Your child should have questions before reading, during reading, and after he or she reads. Questions keep your child reading. It is okay if not all of your child's questions are answered in the text.

### Tips to use at home:

1. Model what it means to be curious while you are reading with your child. Share the questions you

have before you read from looking at the cover and the title. Share questions that come into your mind while you and your child are reading and questions you have after you both read.

2. Use phrases such as, "I wonder..." "What does this mean?" "How come..." and "Why?"

3. Encourage your child to ask "**THICK**" questions while they are reading. These are questions about the ideas in the story, characters, feelings, and new vocabulary.

4. Make sure your child understands that it is okay if not all of his or her questions are answered in the book. What is important is that he or she asks the questions because it shows that your child is thinking about what he or she is reading.

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I hope this quick overview will help you understand what we are working on in school and the strategies you can use at home to support your child's reading comprehension. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks,

Mrs. Wynne