



Reciprocal Reading: A Guide for Parents

Reciprocal Reading is a discussion technique that improves reading comprehension. It incorporates four main reading strategies: (1) **predicting**, (2) **questioning**, (3) **clarifying**, and (4) **summarising**. You can use these techniques at home to develop your child's understanding of what they are reading.

(1) Predicting involves anticipating what may happen next. Readers use information from the text, illustrations, and their prior knowledge to make predictions before and during reading. With fiction, you can prompt your child to use these clues to make predictions about the setting, characters, problems, and key events in the text. When reading non-fiction, you can encourage your child to use the text headings, illustrations, maps, captions and tables to predict what they will learn.

(2) Good readers ask questions as they read. When people know they will be expected to think of a question about a text before they have started reading, they read with a heightened awareness of the main ideas. When using '**questioning**' with your child, use phrases such as "*I wonder.. (why, how, what, where, who)*". You can both take turns 'being the teacher' and creating questions for each other

(3) Young people sometimes have difficulty understanding unclear sentences, passages, chapters, or difficult words. **Clarifying** will help your child to monitor their own comprehension and to use strategies to help them to work out what a text is about. You can model the strategies that you use when you are confused by a piece of text. E.g. "*I didn't understand the part (or word, page, paragraph) where... so I ...(reread, read on to look for clues, spilt the word into parts; thought about what I already know, talked to you about it*".

(4) Summarising is difficult since readers have to pull together several skills and strategies: recalling the text, highlighting the important events, and arranging them in order. Retelling is an important beginning step, which may be easier for your child to practise first.

You and your child can take turns summarizing, coming up with questions, clarifying confusing ideas, and predicting what will happen next. You can use fiction or non-fiction; short pieces from newspapers, magazines, or the Internet. You can even apply the strategies to a recipe, travel guide, or any other article that your child finds interesting. These are tools that good readers use throughout their lives, not just at school