

Reading Begins at Home

September

Fluency:

Echo reading—You read one line, and have the child echo the same line immediately after. As your child's reading improves, increase the number of lines read at one time. Ask your child to follow the print by using their finger to make sure the words are followed with their eyes.

Comprehension:

Make Connections to what you're reading. Whether you're reading aloud to your child, or they are reading aloud to you, making connections is a great way to work on comprehending what they read.

In school we focus on three kinds of connections: text-to-text, text-to-self, and text-to-world.

Ask your child:

- Does this story remind you of another book we've read? How are they similar?
- How is this character like you? How is this situation like one you have experienced?
- How is this like something that happened in real life? How is this like something we heard on the news?

Non-Book Reading Activities:

- **Play board games.** Scrabble or Boggle are specifically good for building vocabulary and spelling, but most games include reading opportunities, including kid versions of Trivial Pursuit, Monopoly, and Clue.
- **Collect trading cards.** There are card series to appeal to most interests, from sports to space travel, Yu-Gi-Oh! to Beanie Babies. Most include facts that encourage kids to read more about their hobbies.

Tips for Listening to Your Child Read:

Bite your tongue — most of the time. If your child is making it through most words, but doing it at a snail's pace, be patient and let her carry on. She needs the practice. Frequent interruptions can interfere with comprehension (and the pleasure of reading).

