

# HELPING FLUENT READERS AT HOME

Parents, if your child is a fluent reader, use these tips to help them develop their comprehension skills.  
The ultimate goal is to develop a love for reading and learn from reading.

## Make Predictions

*Predictions encourage active reading and keep students interested, whether or not the predictions are correct. Incorrect predictions can signal a misunderstanding that needs to be revisited. Instruct students:*

- Look at the pictures, table of contents, chapter headings, maps, diagrams, and features. What subjects are in the book?
- Write down predictions about the text. During reading, look for words or phrases from those predictions.
- While reading, revise the predictions or make new ones.

## Retell and Summarize

*Relating the text in students' own words clears up language issues. Retelling challenges them to aim for complete retention. Summarization allows students to discriminate between main ideas and minor details. Instruct students:*

- During reading, note the main ideas or events. Put a check mark in the book or write a note to point out a main idea.
- At the ends of chapters or sections, review the information or story. Note main ideas or events and the details that support them.
- After reading, retell or summarize the text. Focus on the important points, and support them with relevant details.
- Refer to the book to check the retelling or summarization.

## Ask and Answer Questions

*Having students form their own questions helps them recognize confusion and encourages active learning. Instruct students:*

- Before reading, think about the subject based on the title, chapter heads, and visual information. Make note of anything you are curious about.
- While reading, pause and write down any questions. Be sure to ask questions if there is confusion.
- Look for the answers while reading. Pause and write down the answers.
- Were all the questions answered? Could the answers come from other sources?

## Visualize

*Many students think visually, using shapes, spatial relationships, movement, and colors, and can benefit greatly from this strategy. Instruct students:*

- Imagine a fiction story taking place as if it were a movie. Imagine the characters' features. Picture the plot in time and space.
- Imagine processes and explanations happening visually. Use nouns, verbs, and adjectives to create pictures, diagrams, or other mental images.
- Use graphic organizers to lay out information. Make sketches or diagrams on scrap paper.

Also use [wordsmyth.net](http://wordsmyth.net) to look up definitions to unknown words.



**Wordsmyth**  
The Premier Educational Dictionary - Thesaurus