

EYFS

Here's what the DFE says about why reading comprehension is important for Early Years:

Listening to stories introduces children to words they would not often hear in everyday speech. It also gives them an awareness of sentence structure. You should provide a wide range of reading experiences to help children develop a love of reading, curiosity and wonder about the world around them.

Through the regular sharing of books, the children will become more interested in books, and be able to explain what they are about. You should help them guess what happens next. Make the text come alive by using voices, exaggerated facial expressions and body movements to tell the story.

Here's some tips... Sit in a cosy place with your children and as you read with them:

- ask 'why have I, you or we chosen this book?'
- tell them why you like it, eg 'I love this book because the cat always makes me laugh'
- point out colours, pictures and characters
- challenge them to point out the book's title, or author
- stop and talk about the main characters
- look for rhymes, like 'shark in the park'

This is what Reception children will start doing when reading or listening to stories:

- Understanding the meaning of new or tricky vocabulary
- Understanding the key elements of a story such as character and setting in a story, or the main purpose of a non-fiction book
- Summarising the story
- Discuss a character's feelings, actions, behaviour or motivation
- Predicting what will happen next
- Finding information in a text
- Comparing the book to other books we have read, or comparing different characters or their behaviour, or linking information with something we already know

Here are some ideas for questions to ask your child:

What do you think will happen in the story? (use clues)

Where is the story set? Where are they going?

Have you ever been there/seen one of those before?

What does _____ mean? What other word could we use?

Who is in the story? **What** did they do? **Where** did they go? **Why** did they do that?

How do you think they felt when...? How do you know?

What do you think will happen next? Do you think they will...?

What happened in the story? (retell it or act it out)

What did you like about the story? How did the story make you feel?