

8 Reading Behaviours Explained

Good readers are active readers; they are busy 'doing things' in their heads. Talk to your child about these reading behaviours and help them to practise them when they are reading.

Activating Prior Knowledge – before you start reading anything with your child, take time to talk to them about the subject. Use the title, the front cover, pictures, the blurb to discuss anything they might already know about what they are about to read.

Self- monitoring – Tell your child the whole point of reading is to understand, if they haven't understood they haven't been reading. Encourage your child to ask questions if they are stuck.

Visualising – Good readers use all five senses to create pictures in their heads, and even hear themselves reading the text. Encourage your child to 'hear' the reading voice in their heads, and to 'see pictures' created by the words in the text.

Questioning – Good readers are constantly asking questions about what they read, before they have read it. "What's this going to be about?" "Am I going to like these characters?" while they're reading. "Does this make sense?" "What does this writer mean by using that word?" and after reading, "Did I enjoy that?" "Did I agree with that?" Encourage your child to ask questions about what they are reading.

Making Connections – Good readers make connections with what they read in three ways

Text to self – "This reminds me of when I..."

Text to text – "I read another book about this..."

Text to world – "This is like something I saw on television..."

Talk to your child about what they are reading and encourage them to make connections

Inferring – When we're reading, a lot of the information is inferred, not stated clearly by the author. Children need to be shown how to look for clues in the text to work out

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what the writer is telling us about a character by the name they're given or the description of what they look like. Encourage your child to do this by asking questions like, "What do you do think the author really means here?"

Evaluating – Children should be expected to respond to what they have read. This can be encouraged from the very earliest stages of reading with questions like, "What did you think of that book?" "What was your favourite bit?"

Summarising – If children have read and understood a text, they should be able to summarise it. A fun way to do this would be to set a challenge e.g. "Tell me that story in 30 words!"