

BUILD HABITS OF UNDERSTANDING

*The more that you read, the more things you will know.
The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.*

Dr. Seuss, 1978

I Can Read with My Eyes Shut!

You can help your child to learn about himself or herself and the world through reading – what teachers call “to read with understanding” – by trying out some strategies, such as these:

- **Asking questions.** When reading with your child, ask such questions as “Why is this happening?”; “What might happen next?”; “Does this make sense?”; or “Was it fair when ...?” Such questions help children make connections between parts of a story.

- **Reading “between the lines.”** To make inferences – to discover meaning that is not directly stated – your child needs to learn to use information both from the story and from his or her own knowledge and experience. This strategy of reading “between the lines” involves gathering clues and using them to “create” meaning.

- **Putting it all together.** You can encourage your child to put it all together first by talking about all the information he or she has read, then summarizing the important points and putting those points together like pieces of a puzzle.

- **Figuring out difficult words.** Allow your child time to figure out what a word might be or to recognize a mistake. If a mistake doesn't affect the meaning, let it go. Your child can use various tactics to figure out a word he or she doesn't know:

1. Sound out the word.
2. Look at the pictures.
3. Divide the word into smaller parts.
4. Reread the words before and after the difficult word.
5. Skip over the word for the moment and read on further.
6. Talk about what he or she has read so far to check understanding.
7. Ask a brother or sister for the answer.