

## HELPING YOUR CHILD GAIN COMPREHENSION SKILLS

Dear Parents,

Comprehension is an essential part of learning to read. It becomes second nature to any teacher who is working on comprehension skills to ask questions, which give the student a chance to link information. Comprehension depends on information being processed as the sentence is read. As more information is gained, we begin to verify, clarify, question or extend what we already know. It is not uncommon for a student to get to the end of a story and be unable to tell about the contents of the printed material. As one little girl said, "I forgot to listen as I was reading." Another boy said, "I didn't know it was important to remember what I read."

As parents, you have the perfect opportunity to help your child gain comprehension skills by asking some thinking questions as you read to them or as they read to you. When you ask thinking questions, the child should look at you and not have to look at the printed page for the information. The answer should be recalled from information that has been processed during the reading or listening time.

The following are examples of thinking questions, which could be adapted for stories that the child has listened to or has read with you:

1. How do you think Susan felt when that happened? Why?
2. Is Tommy the kind of person you would want as a friend? Why?
3. How would you feel if you were Michelle?
4. If you were the author, how would you have ended the story?
5. Tell me in your own words what has happened in the story this far.
6. Does that make sense to you?
7. Did you think that Tommy would go or were you surprised? Why?
8. What clues did you find on this page to tell you that Megan didn't want to go to the party?
9. What part in the story did you like the best? Why?
10. Can you tell me the most important thing that has happened so far?
11. Did the party happen at the beginning, middle or end of the story?
12. Would you expect to find the children at Jill's house?
13. If you had to tell me that story in three sentences, what would they be?
14. How do you think Dad was feeling when he said that?
15. How do you know that Tim was going to do that?

Give it a try!

*Mrs. Kodar*  
From your child's teacher

