

Improve your child's reading comprehension



The older your child gets, the more he will need strong reading comprehension skills to do his best in school. Reading comprehension is more than just the ability to fully understand the material. It can also include more advanced skills, such as being able to draw conclusions based on evidence in the reading.

To help your child build reading comprehension:

- **Encourage him to form pictures** in his head of what he is reading. If he has trouble with this, have him actually draw the pictures at first.
- **Have him name at least one thing** in the material that reminds him of something he already knows.
- **Ask him to tell you** what he thinks are the most important parts of the story or text. What is the main idea? If he's reading a short story or a novel,



who are the main characters? What conflicts do the characters face?

- **Practice critical thinking**, a key skill for older elementary school students. Ask your child to give you his thoughts about what he has read. Does it make sense? Should the author have presented it in a different way? Did characters in the novel make good choices? Why or why not?