

HOME SUPPORT: DEVELOPING COMPREHENSION SKILLS

“Comprehension is the reason for reading. If readers can read the words but do not understand what they are reading, they are not really reading.” (Center for the Improvement of Early Reading Achievement)

When you read to your child, he or she will develop a sense of story and will develop story re-telling skills.

Suggestions For Home Support in Developing Comprehension Skills:

- Let your child discuss how the character feels.
- Let your child predict how the story will end.
- Let your child discuss what she or he would do.
- Ask your child questions to develop vocabulary. For example, “Where is (name an object)?”

Children love to hear the same story read over and over. Story re-telling is how well we re-tell the story with attention to sequence of events and details. We often use words like, “In the beginning”, “Then”, “Next”, etc.

Suggestions For Home Support in Story Re-telling:

- After your child knows a story well, have him or her tell the story in their own words using the pictures on the pages as a guide.
- Encourage your child to use his or her own words when retelling a story.
- Once your child has retold the story on any given page, read the words on that page to see how well your child’s retell matches the author’s words.

Below are some books that can be helpful in developing comprehension and story re-telling skills. These books can be found in most public libraries and local bookstores.

Title	Author	Publisher/Date
<i>Miss Nelson is Missing</i>	Allard, H.	Houghton Mifflin; 1977
<i>Madeline</i>	Bemelmans, L.	Viking; 1939, 1967
<i>Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel</i>	Burton, V.	Houghton Mifflin; 1967
<i>The Little House</i>	Burton, V.	Houghton Mifflin; 1969
<i>A Baby Sister for Frances</i>	Hoban, R.	Harpur Trophy; 1992
<i>Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?</i>	Martin, B., Carle, E.	Holt; 1983
<i>Alexander and the Terrible Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day</i>	Viorst, J.	Atheneum; 1972