



Sydney Catholic Schools

Supporting Your Child's Early Reading Journey

Parent and Carer Information Course on Early Reading





Today we will explore:

- How children learn to read
- Why oral language is so important for building comprehension
- How phonics works
- What decodable books are
- What tricky words are
- How to support fluency
- What to do if you are concerned



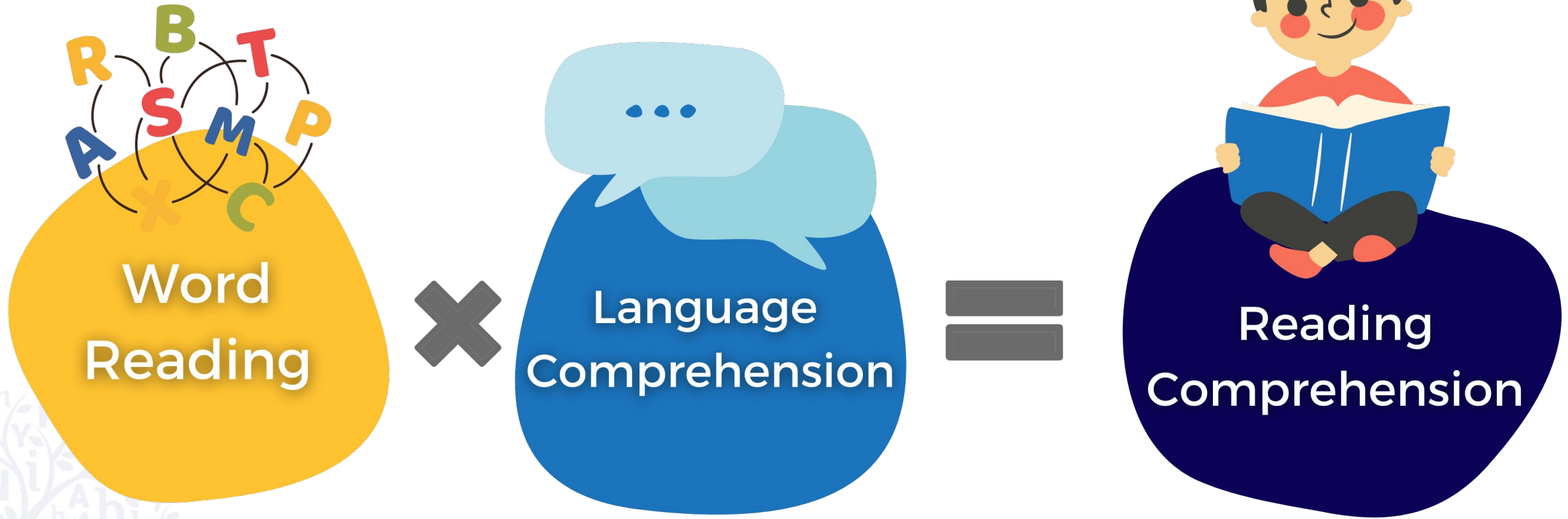


The Goal of Reading

- The goal of reading is comprehension.
- We want children to:
 - ✓ Read accurately
 - ✓ Read fluently
 - ✓ Understand what they read



The Simple View of Reading

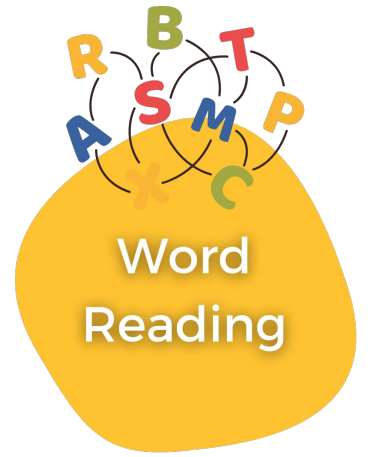




Reading Is Not a Natural Skill

- Speaking develops naturally.
- Reading does not.
- Reading must be explicitly taught.
- Some children need more practice than others – and that is expected.





What Is Word Reading?

- Word reading means:
 - ✓ Recognising words automatically
 - ✓ Sounding out unfamiliar words
 - ✓ Blending sounds together
- If word reading is not secure, reading becomes slow and effortful.





What Is Language Comprehension?

- Language comprehension includes:
 - ✓ Vocabulary knowledge
 - ✓ Understanding sentences and grammar
 - ✓ Background knowledge
 - ✓ General world knowledge



Supporting Language Comprehension





Building Language at Home

- You can support language development by:
 - ✓ Talking about everyday experiences
 - ✓ Encouraging curiosity
 - ✓ Exploring nature
 - ✓ Asking and answering questions
- Everyday conversations build vocabulary.





Read Aloud Every Day

- ✓ Read stories and information books
- ✓ Discuss new words
- ✓ Ask questions about the text
- ✓ Read in your home language



- Listening builds knowledge and vocabulary.



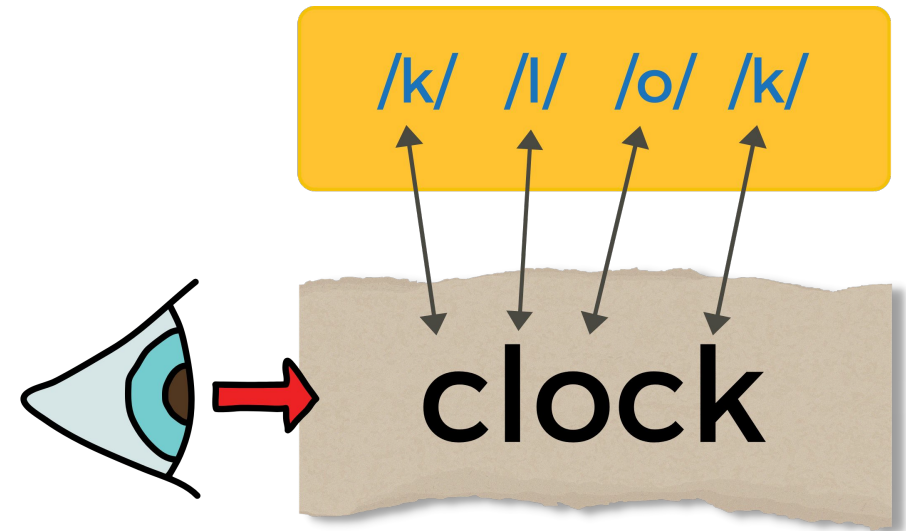
Supporting Word Reading





What is Phonics?

- Phonics is the connection between letters and sounds.
- Children learn to:
 - ✓ Look at letters
 - ✓ Say the sounds
 - ✓ Blend the sounds together
 - ✓ Read the word



Supporting Your Child While Reading

- When your child is reading:
 - ✓ Encourage finger tracking
 - ✓ Prompt: 'Say the sounds'
 - ✓ Praise effort
 - ✓ Reread sentences
- Allow them to do most of the work.





What Are Decodable Readers?

- Decodable books:
 - ✓ Contain only the sounds taught at school
 - ✓ Allow successful practice
 - ✓ Build confidence
- Repeated reading builds fluency.





What Are Tricky Words?

- Some important words do not fully follow phonics rules that students have been taught, eg:
 - ✓ the
 - ✓ is
 - ✓ a
- These need extra practice and repetition.





Reading Longer Words

- Children move from 3-sound words to longer words, eg:
 - ✓ slip
 - ✓ frog
 - ✓ print
 - ✓ strap
- Encourage careful blending.





Digraphs and Trigraphs

- Digraph = 2 letters, 1 sound (sh, ch, ai, ck)
- Trigraph = 3 letters, 1 sound (tch, ear, ore)



- Children are explicitly taught these patterns at school.





Fluency: Practice Makes Permanent

- Fluency means:
 - ✓ Smooth reading
 - ✓ Appropriate pace
 - ✓ Expression
- Repeated reading builds confidence and comprehension.





Supporting Struggling Readers

- We implement consistent monitoring and assessment of reading skills
- The assessments help us identify which students may need:
 - ✓ Additional opportunities for practice in the classroom
 - ✓ Small group intervention
 - ✓ Individualised intervention
- We will communicate with parents regarding any intervention required.





If You Have Concerns or Questions

- If you are concerned about your child's reading:
 - ✓ Speak with your classroom teacher
 - ✓ Ask about supports in place
 - ✓ Visit the SPELD NSW Parent Hub
www.speldnsw.org.au/parents-hub/
- Early support makes a difference.





Final Message

- Reading is a journey.
- Practice builds skill.
- Partnership builds success.



Thank you for supporting your child's learning.

