

The Balanced Reader: Comprehension

Comprehension is the understanding and interpretation of what is read. To be able to accurately understand written material, children need to be able to decode what they read, make connections between what they read and what they already know and think deeply about what they have read.



How can parents help their children at home with comprehension?

Play Audio Books

Some children are auditory learners, so they may benefit from listening to audio books. Instruct your child to follow along with the narrator while you play an audio book. Auditory learners may be able to extract more meaning from the text by listening and following along as opposed to reading independently.



Focus On Your Child's Favorite Topics

Studies show that reading multiple books on the same topic can actually help your child improve their comprehension skills more than reading multiple books on various topics.

Use this research to your advantage by finding books related to your child's favorite topics. Does your child love sports? If so, check out a handful of different sports related books from

the local library. Is your child interested in the solar system? Find five or six books on the planets.

Discuss the books with your child once they've finished reading. Ask your child to compare and contrast the books to check their comprehension and keep them engaged.