Comprehension Strategies

Reading is more than just reading the words on the page. Reading is getting meaning from the print.

Readers use several strategies to make meaning. They bring a variety of background knowledge to the text. They use their understanding of spoken language and what sounds right. They use their knowledge of letter patterns, sounds and word patterns.

Independent readers use all of these strategies all of the time to help their understanding.

You can help your child develop these with the following activities.

- Predict from the cover what the story may be about.
- Predict what may happen in the end of the story when you are half way through.
- Discuss the main idea.
- Retell the story in their own words.
- Discuss the characters.
- Identify cause and effect - talk about what happened and why.
- Discuss unfamiliar words.
- Talk about likes and dislikes of the story and their reasons.
- Make connections between the text and real life.
- Investigate other authors of books they have enjoyed.
- Talk about the purpose of the text - what was the author trying to share?
- Ask them questions and get them to ask you questions about the story - who, what, where, when, how, why, feelings.