

Ideas to Use to Develop Better Listening Comprehension

1. Ask the 5 w's and h questions about the story. (Who, What, Where, When, Why, How)
2. Have your child give you the main idea of the story. (What is this book mainly about? What is the most important idea?)
3. What was the main problem in the story? How did it get resolved?
4. Ask: What happened in the book? What caused it to happen?
5. Ask: What does the author want you to know or learn in this book?
6. Have them tell you the names of the main characters and the other characters.
7. Have them tell you about the setting. Can you find it on the globe? Have you been to a place like this?
8. Use their 5 senses: What could you hear in the story? Taste? Smell? Touch? See?
9. Before reading have your child make predictions about the story and after reading discuss his/her predictions.
10. Discuss the characteristics of the characters (mean, generous, nice, friendly, considerate, grouchy, etc.)
11. Practice visualization-Read a story without showing the pictures and have your child tell about the pictures he/she created in his head about the story. Then look at the pictures in the book. Which pictures were better, those visualized or those in the book and why?
12. Have your child retell the story using words like first, second, next, and then.
13. If you can take a book apart, have your child sequence the pictures and then retell the story.
14. When reading a non-fiction book, ask, "What did you learn about that _____?"
15. Draw a story in three parts, beginning, middle, and end.
16. Have child make connections of information in book to him/herself, other books, or other knowledge or experiences.
17. Discuss the moods in the book and how and/or why those moods were created.
18. Evaluate the story. What did you like best and why? What did you like least and why? What would you change and how would you change it? What ending would you have liked instead? Etc.

Ideas came from Strategies that Work by Stephanie Harvey and Intervention Activities Guide that accompanied the Texas Primary Reading Inventory.