

What Can You Say Besides "Sound it out"?

To help children *monitor* their reading:

- Wait time
- Try that again.
- Are you right?

To help children *use meaning* (context or prior knowledge):

- Look at the picture to help yourself.
- Does that make sense?
- Think what would make good sense.
- Start that sentence again.
- Make a good guess, then go on.

To help children *use language structure* (syntax):

- Does that sound right? Does it fit?
- Can we say it that way?

To help children *cross check* (use two or three sources of information):

- Check to see if what you said looks right and makes sense.
- It could be _____, but look at _____.

To help children use *visual information* (print):

- Read all the words up to the tricky word and start it.
- Say more of the word.
- Does that look right to you?
- Look at how the word begins.
- Do you know another word that starts that way?
- If that was _____, what would you expect to see at the beginning?
At the end?
- Do you know a word that looks/sounds like that?

To help children *problem-solve independently*:

- What can you do to help yourself?
- I like the way you tried to help yourself.
- Good readers keep trying—good for you!
- I like the way you worked on the hard part.
- What can you try?
- Good readers... (praise behavior).

Adapted from *Invitations* by Regie Routman

What to do when a reader makes a mistake...

- If the mistake makes sense, don't worry about it.
- If the mistake doesn't make sense, wait until the end of the sentence and see if the reader will fix it.
- At the end of the sentence, say, "Try that again."
- Say, "You said...(repeat what reader read.) Does that make sense?"
- At the end of the sentence, say, "Did what you read look right and sound right?"
- Tell the correct response.

What to do when a reader gets stuck...

- Wait and see if the reader can work it out.
- Say, "Read it again and start the tricky word."
- Say, "Look at the picture."
- Say, "Think what would make sense."
- Say, "Do you know a word that looks like that?"
- Say, "Sound it out in chunks."
- Tell the word.