

Supporting Your Child In Literacy Development - Session # 4



Thank you so much for taking the time to view this information. This is Session # 4 of 6 sessions that will be available to you via PDF or video tutorial. Each session will focus on a specific reading comprehension strategy and ways in which you can support your child at home.

This month I will be giving you information on Phase 4 of reading development (Transitional Reading), how it begins, and what you will notice as your child develops. I will also focus on the specific reading comprehension strategy of Questioning and give you a list of simple practices and discussion prompts that may work for you and your family to support the development of your child. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me via email at april.zakresky@psd.ca or call Prescott Learning Centre at **780-571-8079**.

Phases 4 of Reading Development (These are things you may have noticed as your child reads):

Phase 4 - Transitional Reading

- Knows that text can be in different forms (e.g. letters, stories, reports, procedures, a recount)
- Understand that text can be organized in different forms (e.g. paragraphs, chapters, contents, index)
- Can retell and discuss own thoughts and views related to plot, characters, supporting details
- Recognizes that characters can be stereotyped (eg. helpless maiden, the prince is the rescuer, the father goes to work instead of the mother.)
- Is able to use different reading strategies such as skimming to search for a fact or key word
- Becoming efficient in using strategies to make meaning of what they are reading (eg. predicting, self-correcting, re-reading to clarify meaning, slowing down when reading difficult text, reading on when encountering the difficult text.)



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Readers must master 5 fiction reading strategies to be truly competent at understanding what they read.

These strategies by Adrienne Gear (Reading Power) include:

- Connecting
- Visualizing
- **Questioning**
- Inferring
- Transforming

These 5 sessions will focus on each of these strategies by explaining what they are and how you as parents and guardians can support this development at home alongside teachers in the classroom.

Questioning:

Proficient readers know to ask questions while they read. These questions help the reader to check for understanding, realize when they are confused and fill in the blanks when something is unclear (Gear, 2016).

Questioning is essential in helping student to make inferences. Students must understand that there are actually two types of questions, quick thinking questions and deep thinking questions. Quick thinking question are questions that often an immediate response or a yes or no answer (e.g. When is your birthday? Do you like pizza?). Whereas deep thinking questions may require some thinking and research to find the answer or there may not be an answer (e.g. What if....?, How might....?, Where could we....?)

So, how can you as parents and guardians help?

Simple practices and prompting statements to encourage questioning while reading at home:

- Encourage your child to ask questions before reading, during reading and after reading
- Before reading this story were you wondering anything?
- During reading this story are you wondering anything?
- What would happen if the author changed.....?
- If the author were here, what are 3 questions you would ask about this book or story?
- If one of the characters were here, what 3 questions would you ask that character?
- What are 3 questions that were answered for you by the end of this book or story?
- What did you enjoy most about this book or story?
- What was the main conflict of the story?
- If your child can write, they can write questions on sticky notes as read

Even if you ask one of these questions or prompts every time your child reads, you are helping to activate their questioning skills and enhance their reading comprehension skills.

Next month's session will focus on **Inferring** as a reading for understanding strategy.