

Dear Parents/Guardians

When reading, it is important your child do more than just *read* the words. Reading involves thinking about the story and understanding what is going on. To help your child develop his or her reading comprehension it is essential you talk with your child about the books he or she reads. Below are examples of the kind of prompts you can use to help your child delve deeper into the books he or she reads aloud to you.

Before Reading:

- Look at the front and back cover of the book to become familiar with the characters and build vocabulary
- Ask your child what he/she notices about the pictures
- Read the title and have your child predict what the story might be about
- Scan the pictures in the book and ask questions or make predictions about the story (who, what, why, where, how, when, etc)

While Reading:

- Pause the book part way through to check in and see if your child understands the key points (check back and reread sections if need be)
- Ask literal questions, such as "what is the main character's name?" "where is the story taking place?"
- Ask inferential questions such as "how do you think the character feels?" "why do you think the character did that?"
- Before reaching the end of the book ask your child to make a prediction about what might happen next.

After Reading:

- Have your child revisit the predictions he/she made previously and talk about the outcome
- Ask your child to retell the story to you in his or her own words
- Have your child summarize the story for you (paying attention to the beginning, middle and end of the story)
- Ask what your child's favourite part was/least favourite part was?
- Ask if your child would recommend the book to others and have them explain why