

# Reading Strategies



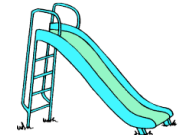
**Look for the clues in the pictures.** Teach your child to look at the pictures when trying to figure out a word. For a beginning reader, the picture is a comprehension support that aids in understanding the story; without the pictures the story has little meaning.



**Get your mouth ready and say the first sound.** When your child gets stuck on a word, encourage her to get her mouth ready by saying the beginning sound; sometimes sounding out the entire word is too difficult for beginning readers. Saying the beginning sound and comparing that to what is happening in the picture often unlocks the code.



**Back up and try to read the word again.** I also have them back up and reread the beginning of the sentence.



**Slide through the whole word.** Blend the sounds as you go. Sometimes the beginning sound is not enough and we need to try to sound out all the letters. This doesn't always work, as many words (especially high frequency) break the rules. However, it is a valid reading strategy to try. Don't forget to use your arm Word Slide!



**Cut the Word into smaller chunks.** Cutting the parts of words into a word that is already known can help the child latch on to smaller words they already know in order to figure out a larger word. For example, if a child figures out the word chunk "run" with the chunk "ing", the word becomes easier to figure out.



**Connect it to a word you already know.** Connecting to word families to read several similar words.



**Skip the word and read on.** Skipping the word is a strategy that even adults apply as they read difficult text, but remind your child to go back and try the sentence again when he is finished to see if he now had an attempt that makes sense.

**Alone = You can skip and move on. Teacher/Parent = Skip, Go back and Reread**



**Flip the vowel sound. Try the long sound. Try the short sound.** After trying to sound out the word, if it doesn't sound right try flipping the vowel to the opposite sound (long or short vowel sound).



**Check: Does it look right? Does it sound right? Does it make sense?** Encourage your child to think about what makes sense. Oftentimes, children make guesses as they read, only thinking about the sounds in a word rather than the story. By helping your child make sensible attempts at words, you are demonstrating that reading is done for meaning and that there are such things as **good guesses**.