

Check for Understanding



This is a comprehension strategy used to help children self-monitor the meaning of what they are reading. This typically is a quick summary of what they've read, starting with "who" and "what."

Step 1: Have your child select a book to read out loud to you.

Step 2: Sit next to your child so you can see the pages of the book.

Step 3: Parent or family member holds on to the checkmark.

Step 4: Child should begin reading the first page.

Step 5: When the child comes to the end of the page, the parent or family member holds up the checkmark and says, "Let's check for understanding." The parent or family member summarizes what he or she just heard the child read by asking the child...

Who did you just read about and what just happened?

Step 6: Parent or family member hands the checkmark to the child and the adult reads the next page.

Step 7: When the parent or family member comes to the end of the page, the child holds up the checkmark and says, "Let's check for understanding." The child summarizes what the parent or family member has just read by asking the parent or family member...

Who did you just read about and what just happened?

Step 8: Continue reading taking turns and summarizing the story by checking for understanding.

Variations: An additional way to summarize the story is to have the participants ask each other some of the following questions:

- Why did that happen?
- How did that happen?
- Where did that happen?
- When did it happen?