

Questions to ask your child when reading

Looking for picture clues (decoding strategy)

Ask your child:

- Do you see any clues in the picture?
- Why did the illustrator draw this?
- Why is this a good picture?

Find the hidden words (decoding strategy)

Ask your child

- Do you see a little word inside the big word? (e.g. Saturday, reading, snowman)

Backtrack (decoding strategy)

Encourage your child to think:

- Go back and reread the sentence and maybe the sentence before.
- What word would make sense?
- Does that sound like you would say it?
- Now, reread a little faster.

Does it make sense? (decoding strategy)

Encourage your child to think:

- What do you think the word *might* be?
- Does that word make sense in the sentence?

Sound it out (decoding strategy)

Encourage your child to think:

- What is the first sound, the next sound, and the next...
- Stretch out the letters to sound out the word slowly.
- Look at the sounds you know.

Skip it (decoding strategy)

Encourage your child to think:

- Skip the word.
- Read to the end of the sentence.
- What word would make sense?
- What does that word start with?

Look for word patterns (decoding strategy)

Ask your child:

- Does that word have a word pattern that you know? (on, in, ou...)
- Does it look like a word you know? (e.g. yellow, fellow)
- Are there words with the same patterns?
- Do they rhyme?

Say the first sound (decoding strategy)

Ask your child:

- What is the first letter sound in the word?
- Read it. The word may just "pop" into your head and out your mouth!

Chunk it out (decoding strategy)

Ask your child:

- Do you see "chunks" in the word?
- Chop the word up into "chunks" then read the "chunks" one after the other.
- What does that word start with?