4 Levels of Reading Comprehension

Questions to ask your child during and after reading to develop their reading comprehension.

Reading is not just being able to read the words, but also understanding what you are reading.

Below are 4 levels of questioning that will assist with reading comprehension. As the levels go up so do the levels of difficulty in the questions being asked.

**Level 1: Right There – the answer is in front of you**

- **a. Matching Objects:** “Find one like this...”
- **b. Naming Objects:** “What is this?”
- **c. Initiating a simple sentence:** “Say this”
- **d. Recalling objects or information:** “What did you see?”

**Level 2: Think and Search – the answer is in front of you, but you need to look for it**

- **a. Identifying an object by function:** “Find something that cuts” (scissors)
- **b. Describing a scene:** “What is happening?”
- **c. Recalling information from a statement:** “What things.....?”
- **d. Completing a sentence:** “Finish this: I like....”
- **e. Attending to 2 characteristics:** “Find something that is sweet and red” (apple)
- **f. Identifying differences:** “How are these different?”
- **g. Giving an example within a category:** “Find a fruit” (orange)

**Level 3: “The Author and You – the answer is not in front of you, use clues from the book and form your own answer”**

- **a. Predicting:** “What will happen next?”
- **b. Taking on the role of another:** “How would he fix it?”
- **c. Following a set of directions:** “Get the cup and bring it to mummy”
- **d. Retell a routine sequence:** “Tell me how to make a sandwich”
- **e. Identifying similarities:** “How are these the same?”
- **f. Understanding negatives:** “Find one that is not red”
- **g. Defining words:** “What is a ....?”

**Level 4: “In you Head – the answer is not in the book – it is your own opinion”**

- **a. Predicting Changes:** “What will happen if...?”
- **b. Justifying:** “Why can’t you use a spoon to row a boat?”
- **c. Identifying Causes:** “What made it happen?”
- **d. Formulating a solution:** “What could you do?”
- **e. Problem solving:** “How could we fix it?”
- **f. Explanations:** “How can you tell he is sad?” (because he is crying)