

Supporting Language & Literacy at 8 Years

Comprehension: Reading to Learn

Literacy is about more than just reading the words on a page. It's about understanding the storyline, getting to know the characters, and predicting what will happen next. This is known as comprehension. You can use concepts from the READ strategy to support your child's reading comprehension at home. Refer to Supporting Language & Literacy at 3 years for more detailed information.

- Have your child read aloud and talk about the books and stories with them. Help them process what they're reading by asking questions about different aspects of the story. Challenge them to read and figure out, or *decode*, the meaning of new words and phrases using skills like phonics and context clues.
- Strengthen their comprehension by exploring a particular theme your child is studying in class in different ways. Look for easy-to-read books or magazines or activities that help build their knowledge of the topic. You can also encourage them to share what they've read in a creative way.
- Help your child prepare and give oral reports on different topics.
- Have your child ask and answer questions about information heard from another person.
- Team up with your child to record themselves reading aloud (perhaps a favorite book). This helps to build fluency.

Your child will be transitioning from learning to read to reading to learn very soon. Partner with their teacher to ensure your child is ready to make the switch. If your child is struggling with reading comprehension, they may need more help with building their vocabulary or practicing phonics skills. Ask your child's teacher for guidance on what else you can do at home.

Language & Literacy Skills at 8 years:

- knows and applies the relationship between sounds and letters in decoding grade-level words
- reads with necessary accuracy, appropriate speed, and expression to support comprehension
- determines the meaning of literal (exact) and non-literal (different) words and phrases as they are used in the text
- describes how characters respond to events in a story
- asks and answers questions about information heard from a speaker
- uses words and phrases learned through conversations and academic books
- creates engaging audio recordings of stories and poems to support fluency (the ability to read text quickly and smoothly)
- speaks clearly at an understandable speed

There are lots of great books to explore at this age. Your child's teacher will likely have some wonderful suggestions. Here's a short list of some of our favorites:

- The *Who Is?/Who Was?* series by Roberta Edwards
- The *I Survived* series by Lauren Tarshis
- *Charlotte's Web* by E. B. White
- *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis
- *Dinosaurs Before Dark* (Magic Tree House, No. 1) by Mary Pope Osborne
- *Dealing with Dragons* by Patricia C. Wrede