

Great Readers Use What They Know

Dear Family Members,

Each reader brings a unique knowledge to every reading experience. Readers use what they know to interact with their reading on many levels. They put what they know to work before they even turn to the first page. In this unit, the students will make connections, activate background knowledge, build vocabulary, and make inferences.

Strategies that we will focus on in Unit 3 -

Making Connections

Making connections is part of what makes reading interesting. Making connections keeps a reader active as they read and results in deeper understanding of the text. Readers even make multiple connections at once, tying together a variety of experiences.

Activating Background Knowledge

At this age, it is not uncommon to find that children know something about a very wide range of topics. Activating background knowledge is a fun and useful strategy. Readers learn to use the title and cover to predict the topic, preview text features and visuals to uncover clues about content, and even revise background knowledge when they learn something new.

Building Vocabulary and Concept Knowledge

We can't understand new concepts without knowing the words that describe them. Children may preview a book, and may predict words they might see in a text. They may use background knowledge or word parts to figure out an unfamiliar word. As readers use these strategies, they become more confident and competent.

Making Inferences

"Reading between the lines" is an appealing way to think about making inferences. When children read to make inferences, they are looking for meaning in text that is not in plain sight. Making inferences allows readers to use what they know, along with clues they find in the text, to discover that there's more on the page than meets the eye!

A great way to follow-up at home is to talk to your child about what is going on in the world around them: Invite your child to share what he or she knows about a topic. Visit places in the community that build on your child's personal experiences. You can even make inferences together based on things you see in the world around us.

Thank you for supporting your child at home!

Sincerely,