

Tips For Discussing Stories With Your Child

Before Reading:

- ❖ Allow your child to choose books of interest.
- ❖ Discuss the genre of the story (informational, biography, realistic fiction, fantasy, etc.)
- ❖ If the book is a series, have students activate prior knowledge about the characters and their experiences from the other stories.
- ❖ If the book is informational, have them activate prior knowledge on the topic.

During Reading:

- ❖ Stop occasionally to check understanding of what is being read. If unsure, ask a question and reread.
- ❖ Consider the feelings, thoughts, and actions of characters.
- ❖ Sequence events that have occurred so far.
- ❖ If there are pictures, refer to those as well as the running text.
- ❖ Make predictions. Discuss or jot down what you think is going to happen next. As you read, discuss if your predictions were right or what happened instead of what you predicted.
- ❖ Use sticky notes to jot down thoughts, reactions, and predictions or discuss if reading with a partner.
- ❖ Make connections between story events and your life or other books read.

After Reading:

- ❖ Reflect on what you just read.
- ❖ Think about what you liked about the book or what you would change if you were the author.
- ❖ Think about someone you can recommend the book to.
- ❖ Summarize what was read.
- ❖ If the book was informational, find other texts on the same topic to learn even more.
- ❖ If the book is informational, determine the main idea and think about some of the supporting details.
- ❖ If the book is fictional, determine the theme (take-away message or lesson) of the story.

