

Vocabulary

Vocabulary refers to the words we must understand to communicate effectively. Vocabulary contributes greatly to a reader's comprehension. A reader cannot understand a selection without knowing what most of the words mean. Meanings of most words are learned indirectly, through everyday experiences with oral and written language.

The following activities support vocabulary development:

- 📖 Engage your child in every day conversations.
- 📖 Help build your child's understanding of language by playing verbal games such as: "20 Questions," "Telephone," and "I am Going On A Picnic."
- 📖 Tell your child jokes and riddles. Figure out the answers together.
- 📖 Children love to hear stories. Tell stories about yourself, family, friends, holiday traditions and things they may not remember about themselves.
- 📖 Read books to your child that are above his/her reading level, exposing them to new words.
- 📖 Encourage your child to read on his/her own. The more children read, the more words they encounter and learn.

Writing

Writing is an essential means of communication that impacts every aspect of our lives.

The following activities support writing:

- 📖 After your child writes, ask specific questions such as: "How did that happen?" "How did that make you feel?" "Can you write more about that...?" "What are some other words you could use to describe...?" These question prompts will encourage your child to write more.
- 📖 Write a story with your child. Create an outline and a first draft. Then, reread the story together and add more details. Finally, edit for spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- 📖 Have your child find 5 to 10 words in a dictionary and write them down. The words do not have to relate to one another. Then, ask your child to use the words to write a poem, a story, or individual sentences.
- 📖 Help your child find a picture in a magazine, book or on the computer that is of their interest. Ask your child to think about what is going on in the picture and create a story based on what they see.
- 📖 Help your child make a journal to write about their life experiences. Encourage your child to write for 15 to 20 minutes each night and record what happened during their day. Writings could include: every day events, family activities, field trips, and vacations.
- 📖 There are writing opportunities everywhere. Encourage your child to write thank you notes, party invitations, e-mails, grocery lists, recipes, and letters to family and friends.

Willow Grove School **Supporting My Child's** **Standards-Based** **Report Card**



Instructional Strategies for **Comprehension,** **Decoding,** **Fluency,** **Vocabulary and** **Writing**



Comprehension

Comprehension is understanding, remembering, and being able to communicate what was read.

The following activities support comprehension:

- 📖 Children love to be the teacher. Take turns predicting, visualizing, questioning, inferring, summarizing, and making connections about a book as you read together.
- 📖 When your child is reading a book, ask him/her to read a paragraph or two and then stop. Next, have your child cover the text with their hand. Then have your child retell the information that they read.
- 📖 Have your child read a book or article independently. Encourage your child to share 3 things they discovered, and 2 things they found interesting. This activity will give your child the opportunity to read for meaning and details.
- 📖 As you and your child begin to read together choose stories that your child will enjoy and extend life experiences. Ask probing questions and connect the events to his/her own life. Questions may include: "I wonder why that girl did that?" or "How do you think he felt?" "Why?" and "So, what lesson can we learn here?"
- 📖 Good readers create visual images in their heads while reading. During reading have your child use a sketch pad to draw images and then retell the story using their sketches.
- 📖 There are reading opportunities everywhere. Have your child read greeting cards, food packages, road signs, magazines and other things in their environment.

Decoding

Engaged readers automatically use decoding strategies to figure out new words.

The following activities support decoding:

- 📖 Relate sounds to letters during reading. Have your child match sounds to the letters as they attempt a word. Teach your child to stretch out an unknown word and then put the sounds back together to make the word. Have your child try the long and short vowel sound to see which vowel sound makes a word. Encourage your child to use the letter-sound relationships that he/she knows to figure out new words. As your child reads you can ask: "What letter or letters do you see?" and "What sound does it make?"
- 📖 Look at how words are formed. Break the word into parts for your child. Cover up beginnings and endings. Look for a part of the word they know. Then work on the part of the word they don't recognize.
- 📖 Recognize sight words. Make flash cards of sight words for your child to practice. Ask your child to locate the sight word you are practicing in a book they are reading. Use magnetic letters or letter tiles for practice.
- 📖 Use meaning from the book. When attempting an unknown word ask your child "Does that word make sense?" You can have your child skip the unknown word and read to the end of the sentence. Then go back and try a word that would make sense in the sentence.

Fluency

Fluency in reading involves the speed, accuracy and tonality of a reader when they read aloud.

The following activities support reading fluency:

- 📖 Use phrase strips with your child. Write a sentence and cut it into natural speaking phrases. Such as: so there you are, two of us, we want to go, such a big house, and they went here. Have your child read each phrase to you several times. Create multiple phrase strips to use for practice.
- 📖 Echo read with your child. Read a line or paragraph to your child and then have him/her read the same line or paragraph back to you. With echo reading, readers can focus more on expression since they will not have to worry about decoding new words.
- 📖 Practice fluency using the slide technique. Slide a strip of paper over the text as your child reads. Push it along over the words so that your child will develop an appropriate reading pace.
- 📖 Model read to your child. Don't stop reading to your child even after they begin to read independently. While reading aloud to your child use the right amount of pacing, expression and pitch.
- 📖 Use audio recordings. Have your child listen to a fluent reader and follow along in a book. This can be done through the use of both audio books or parent recorded books. Audio recordings allow your child to hear what appropriate reading should sound like.