



Parent Pipeline



CAFE Strategy: Use the Pictures... Do the Words and Pictures Match?

An important accuracy strategy that good readers use to help gain meaning from text is to **use the pictures** and ask “**Do the words and picture match?**”. Pictures help to confirm that the words being read make sense. Illustrations can provide hints to help students decode a word. **Using the pictures** is a necessary strategy to help children prepare for other strategies they use as they become more developed readers. Many times beginning readers feel they are “cheating” when they look at the pictures. It is important to model the effectiveness of **using pictures** to help decode words and to gain meaning so children feel comfortable using this strategy and know it is “okay” to use the pictures when reading.

How can you help your child with this strategy at home?

1. Start with beginning reading books that only have a few words on the page. The pictures give clear support for figuring out the meaning and the words.
2. Cover up the words on a page and have your child “read” the story to you by “reading” the pictures. After your child tells you what happened on the page, uncover the words and read the page. This supports the idea that pictures can help tell the story.
3. When reading a picture book with your child, spend time modeling how you look at pictures, maps, and graphs. Talk about your thinking so your child can hear your thought process. Be sure to model how you stop while you are reading to look at the pictures to help you gain information about what is going on.
4. Reading pictures also includes graphs, maps, charts, and their captions. It is a powerful nonfiction reading strategy that can be used to help support a child when reading different textbooks. Remind your child to use this strategy when studying for tests or when writing reports.

Thank you for your continued support at home!

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