How can I support my child with their reading comprehension at home?

You could try one or more of these activities at home with your child when you hear them read. Additionally, try asking them the question stems to further discuss what you have read and develop their reading comprehension.



Vocabulary

- Pick out two or three words from the text they have read and use the passage to discuss their meaning.
- Talk about other words that have the same meaning.
- Ask these questions:
 Which word tells you that...?
 Find one word which means...
 Which key words tells you that...?

Find another word or phrase that means the same as...



Inference

- Discuss a character's personality or feelings ask your child "How do you know this?" See if they can spot something that is suggested but not said e.g. "The boy's hands were trembling." - we can infer that he might be nervous.
- Ask these questions:
 What voice might the character be using? Why?
 How do you think ____ is feeling?
 What do we know from looking at these images/pictures?



Prediction

- At the end of the chapter, encourage your child to make a prediction about what might happen next, based on what they know.
- Ask these questions:
 What does this paragraph suggest might happen next?
 What do you think happened before?
 From the front cover, what do you think this text is going to be about?



Explanation

- Pick an event from the chapter and encourage your child to explain why they think it might be included.
- Find a phrase or word and discuss why the author used it what effect does it have on the reader?
- Ask these questions:
 Why is the text arranged in this way?
 How does the author engage the reader?
 Which section as most exciting? Why?





Retrieval

- See if your child can retrieve key information from the chapter you've read with them e.g. names/details/events.
- Ask these questions:

What happened to...?

What is the name of...?

Where did...?

How often does...?

Give one example of ...?

What genre is this text? How do you know?

Whose perspective is the story told from?





Summarise

- At the end of the chapter/pages see if your child can sum up the key points of what they have just read.
- Ask these questions:
 What is the main message of this text?
 Which statement is the best summary for the whole of page _?