

## READING SKILLS

### Definition:

Reading skills refers to the ability to understand written text. When students comprehend or understand written text and combine their understanding with prior knowledge, they are able to perform the following three reading comprehension skills.

1. To read the written form as meaningful language.
2. To read anything written with independence, comprehension and fluency.
3. To mentally interact with the message.

There are 6 basic reading skills :

### 1. Decoding:

Decoding is the vital step in reading process. Kids use this skill to sound out words they have heard before have not seen written out. The ability to do that is foundation for other reading skills.

Decoding relies on early language language skill called phonemic awareness. Phonemic awareness lets kids hear individuals sounds in words. It also allows them to play with sounds at the word and syllable level.

### 2. Fluency:

To read fluently, kids need to instantly recognize words, including ones they cant sound out. Fluency speeds up the rate at which they can read and understand text. Its also important when kids encounter irregular words, like of and the, which cant be sounded out.

Sounded out and decoding every word can take a lot of effort. When kids can read quickly and without making too many errors, they are fluent readers.

### 3. Vocabulary:

To understand what you are reading, you need to understand most of the words in the text. Having a strong vocabulary is a key component of reading comprehension. Students can learn vocabulary through instruction. But they typically learn the meaning of words through everyday experiences and also by reading.

Reading together everyday also can helps improves vocabulary. When reading aloud, stop at new words and define them. But also encourage your child to read alone. Even without hearing a definition of new word, your child can use the context to help figure it out.

### 4. Sentence construction and cohesion:

Understanding how sentences are built might seem like writing skills. So might connecting ideas within and between sentences, which is called cohesion. But these skills are important for reading comprehension as well.

Knowing how ideas link up at the sentence level helps kids gets meaning from passages and entire texts. It also leads to something called coherence, or the ability to connect ideas to other ideas in an overall piece of writing.

### 5. Reasoning and background knowledge:

Most readers relate what they have read to what they know. So its important for kids to have background or prior knowledge about the world when they read. They also need to be able to read between the lines and pullout meaning even when its not literally spelled out.

Expose your child to as much as possible, and talk about what you have learned from experiences

you have had together and separately. Help your child make connections between new knowledge and existing knowledge. And ask open ended questions that require thinking and explanations.

## 6. **Working memory and Attention:**

These two skills both are part of the group of abilities known as executive function. They are different but closely related.

when kids read, attention allows them to take in information from the text. Working memory allows them to hold on to that information and use it to gain meaning and build knowledge from what they are reading.

Then there we go for the types of reading skills there are as given below;

### 1. **Active reading technique:**

Active reading simply means reading something with determination to understand and evaluate it for its relevance to your needs. Simply reading and re-reading the material is not an effective way to understand and learn. Actively and critically engaging with the content can save you time.

#### **Why active reading?**

- Save time because we pay attention to what we read the first time and do not waste time re-reading.
- Prepare us for exams because we gain more in depth knowledge of material.
- Stay informed about a subject that interests us.
- Develop exposure new ideas or have familiar concepts reinforced.
- Create a deeper understanding of life's complexities.
- Achieve intellectual growth.

When we read actively we try to understand the text throughly by reading slowly and carefully, pausing to question a main idea or to reexamine the passage that confuses us, and interpreting the larger meanings and implications of text we are reading. We try to keep our minds actively thinking about what the text means. In general active reading allows us to

- Capture main ideas, key concepts and details of reading.
- Target, reduce and distill the needed information from the text.
- Ask questions that help us think deeper about the content.

### 2. **Skimming reading:**

skimming can save your time of laborious reading. However it is not always the most appropriate way to read. It is very useful as a preview to a more detailed reading or when reviewing a selection heavy in content. But when you skim you may miss important points or overlook the finer shadings of meaning, for which rapid reading or perhaps even study reading me be necessary.

Use skimming to overview your textbook chapters or to review for a test use skimming to decide if you need to read something at all, for example during the research for paper. To skim prepare yourself to move rapidly through the pages. You will not read full topic you have just to pay the attention to the headings. While skimming is always faster than your normal reading speed you should slow down in the following situations;

- When you skim introductory and concluding paragraphs.
- When you skim topic sentences.
- When you find an unfamiliar word.
- When the material is very complicated.

### 3. **General reading:**

General reading means that usually when we read books, newspaper and reading general documentary books to get the knowledge that what is going on around the globe. It generates the reading skills in us and we can talk and communicate confidently with people.

#### **4. Careful reading:**

Careful reading refers to different operations where the reader attempts to extract complete meanings within or beyond sentences right up to the level of the entire text so as to construct the text macrostructure.

- To learn to read actively.
- To learn to read more effectively.
- To learn strategies to help you become an active reader regardless of the material you are reading.
- Improves your comprehension.
- Increases your concentration.
- Creates a study tool that will help you prepare for exams.
- Gives you a purpose for reading.