READING COMPREHENSION STRATEGIES

Purpose: The Primary Aim of Reading is Comprehension
In our Reading to Kids program we can provide opportunities for students to practice comprehension strategies when they are listening and responding to the stories that we read to them.

The following are descriptions of the types of strategies proficient readers use to comprehend text.

Setting Reading Goals
- Activate prior knowledge by discussing what is already known abut the subject.
- Browse the story by looking at the title, author and illustrations.
- Decide what to expect from the text.

Summarizing
- When a narrative text has covered a long period of time or a number of events
- When many facts have been presented
- When an especially critical scene has occurred
- When a complex process has been described
- Anytime there is a potential for confusion about what has happened

Asking Questions
Questions that can be answered with a simple yes or no are not typically useful for helping to remember or understand the story. The process of effective questioning begins with *"Who? What? When? Where? How? Or Why?"* Advancing from literal questions, which can be answered with explicit information in the story, students can advance to inferential questions which must be answered by interpreting story content.

Predicting
Predicting can be appropriate at the beginning of a selection and can be confirmed or revised throughout the story. Students need to determine what clues in the story or in the illustrations helped them predict in order to lean that predicting is not merely guessing.

Making Connections
Students should be guided to think of memories or people which might remind them of characters or events in a story. Sharing your connections will help students become aware of the dynamic nature of reading.

Visualizing
Students should form mental images abut the setting, characters, and action in a story. Visualizing helps students understand descriptions of complex activities or processes.