

Talking While You Read

Talking about books will help your child become a better reader. For this reason, it is important to talk with your child when you read together. This will also help your child learn vocabulary and gain knowledge about the topic of that book. Books about topics that interest your child and with detailed pictures are best.

Use a Cool Tool to Talk While You Read

To engage your child in conversation, you can use a tool called PEER:

Prompt, Evaluate, Expand, and Repeat. First, **prompt** your child by asking a question about the book. Next, **evaluate** your child's answer either by confirming that it is correct or by telling your child the correct answer. **Expand** your child's response by adding more information. Finally, **repeat** the original prompt to see if your child expands the original answer. Use this sequence on every page or every other page. Use **wh** questions for your prompts. **Wh** prompts usually begin with **w** or **h** (who, what, where, when, why, and how). A conversation might go like this:

Prompt your child to say something about the book. "How did you know the bear was sick?" Your child might respond, "Sneeze."

Evaluate your child's response. "That's right."

Expand your child's response by rephrasing and adding information to it. "The bear sneezed."

Can you say, 'The bear sneezed'?"

Repeat the prompt to make sure your child has learned from the expansion. "How did you know the bear was sick?" If your child doesn't say, "The bear sneezed," then you say it and ask your child to repeat it. Notice how you expanded the child's original response and modeled how to say it in a complete sentence.

The *Talking While You Read* bookmark can be a good guide to remind you of what questions to ask. You can also encourage your child to answer questions in complete sentences by showing them how to do so. Lastly, it can be helpful to relate the activities in the book to your child's life.