



## Reading for Meaning



Ontario

In elementary school, children transition from learning to read to reading to learn. Even children who are skilled at decoding words can become so involved in the process, they forget to pay attention to what they are reading about. Here are some things you can do at home to help your child understand what they are reading:

- Talk about books **before, during, and after** reading. Ask your child simple questions such as, “Look at the cover of this book. What do you think it’s about?” or “Do you remember what happened in the story when...?”
- **Relate books to your child’s world.** They enjoy stories about things that have happened to them or new books that are similar to old favourites.
- **Talk about new words.** Use gestures, expression in your voice, or similar words to help them understand what words mean.
- **Dramatize or retell stories** with your child to help them deepen their understanding of the plot.

Provided by: *Ontario Early Years Literacy Specialists*