

Spark Your Youngster's Curiosity by Reading Aloud

Are you searching for the perfect gift to give your budding learner? Don't underestimate the power of one on one quality reading time. The benefits of this connection are undeniable. Start developing listening comprehension skills even before your children utter their first words. Perhaps you're wondering why listening comprehension is so important? Let's break it down.

Comprehension skills are an integral component of Pre-K curricula. Standards address literary and informational texts. At the earliest phases of learning, we expect students to ask and answer questions about a text, determine logical connections, and analyze craft and structure.

Now you need not fret. These words sound fancier than they are. Kids Academy has done the groundwork by creating engaging, research-based resources to address these areas. Keep reading to get a better understanding of the benchmark skills for Pre-K.



Pre-K Benchmarks for Nonfiction Reading Comprehension

At this age, your Pre-K student needs the text read aloud by an adult. Nonetheless, your young scholar has what it takes to make meaning of what you read. Nonfiction texts, sometimes referred to as expository texts, can be engaging. Subscriptions to magazines for kids, online articles, and library books about endless topics will work well for these benchmarks.

Teach Me How to Retell Important Information from the Text

After listening to a paragraph or entire nonfiction article, your child should be able to retell the most pertinent information. He should identify who or what the text discusses. Additionally, determining two or three details about the person or topic should also be recalled. Use the worksheet below to get started with this concept.

Retelling the Details: What Can the Sun Melt?



1. Listen to the text about how the sun can melt things.

The sun's heat is very hot. It can melt things here on Earth. What do you think the sun can melt? Did you know the sun can melt **ice**? The sun can melt **chocolate**. The sun can even melt a **marshmallow**! The sun can melt a lot of things that we eat. The sun cannot melt a **lego**. It won't melt a **block** or a **marble**. But, it will melt a **snowman**!

2. Check the objects the sun can melt.

1. The sun can melt _____.

legos **a snowman**

2. The sun can melt _____.

a block **chocolate**

3. The sun can melt _____.

a marshmallow **a marble**

4. The sun can melt _____.

a book **ice**

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Teach Me How to Notice and Pick Out Important Facts



The purpose of reading is to make meaning. In some cases, young readers become word callers who merely read words without thinking of what they are reading. Stress the importance of understanding first, even before teaching your child how to read. Can your child note relevant facts about what you read? Consider using the worksheet below to fine-tune this skill.



Details about our SUN



Listen to the text about our sun. Then, read the questions and check the correct answers.


Up high in the sky, you can see the sun. The sun is a very big, round star. The sun is very hot. You can feel the sun's warm rays. The sun gives us light on Earth. The sun also gives plants and animals energy. Thank you sun, for all you do!

1. What size is the sun?  **big**  **small**

2. What shape is the sun?  **square**  **round**

3. What does it feel like in the sun?  **cold**  **hot**

4. What does the sun give us?  **light**  **darkness**

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Teach Me How to Answer Text-Dependent Questions

Schools require students to refer to the text for the basis of their answers. Text-dependent questions require attention to detail. Start using this strategy by asking who, what, when, and where questions. The worksheet below is a great start for this skill set.

Finding the Details and Connections:

Assessment 2

Listen to the text about the **dog** and the **cat** who live on the farm. Answer the questions below by circling **yes** or **no**.

The dog and cat live on a farm. The dog plays with children. The dog sleeps in the hay. The cat plays with children. The cat sleeps in the field. The dog and cat love their farm.



1. Do the dog and cat both live on the farm?



YES

NO

2. Do the dog and cat both play with the children?



YES

NO

3. Do the dog and cat both sleep in the field?



YES

NO

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Teach Me How to Recognize Logical Connections

Authors use logical connections to structure texts for readers to understand. The logical connections you want to practice with your young reader include chronological order, compare and contrast, cause and effect, and problem and solution. Introduce these patterns with concrete items first. For example, show your toddler an apple and an orange and have them compare and contrast the fruits. Follow up with this fun worksheet.



At a Pizza Party

How are **brother** and **sister** the same?
Listen to the text about a brother and sister at a party. Check the things that they both eat, do or wear.

A sister and brother go to a pizza party. The sister eats **pizza** . The sister eats **strawberries** . The sister wears a **party hat** . The sister brings a **balloon** .

The brother eats **pizza** . The brother eats **broccoli** . The brother wears a **party hat** .

The brother brings a **gift** .

The brother and sister **have fun**  at the party.

party hat



broccoli



balloon



strawberries



gift



pizza



fun



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What Pre-K Students Need to Know About Text Structure

Literacy involves so much more than being able to read the words on a page. Written language has varying structures, systems, and rules that need development. Concepts of print need explicit teaching as your youngster is learning how to write.



Analyzing Text Structure

Your student needs to understand how we string words together to write a story. The difference between a word, a sentence, a paragraph, and a page all need teaching. What is punctuation and how do we use it? There is so much to learn. Create a routine by discussing these concepts with each text. The worksheet below is great for practicing the structure of nonfiction texts.

Nonfiction Features

1. Listen to the captions read aloud. Then check the one that best matches the photograph.



Elephants take care of their babies.

Elephants climb mountains all by themselves.

2. Check the table of contents that could be in the same nonfiction book as this photograph.

TITLE:
ANIMALS
IN THE WILD



Chapter 1:
Giraffes



Chapter 2:
Elephants



Chapter 3:
Gorillas

TITLE:
HEALTHY
FOODS



Chapter 1:
Fruits



Chapter 2:
Vegetables



Chapter 3:
Grains

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Drawing Information from Illustrations

Nonfiction texts feature vivid photographs that are just as important to analyze as the text. Sometimes, information is included solely in the illustrations, rather than the text. Our young readers must gather information from photographs and illustrations.

CITIES



Check the pictures that show cities.



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Finding Similarities and Differences Between Two Texts

A more advanced skill set is to compare two texts of a similar topic. Let's say your child is learning all about cities vs towns. Find multiple texts about this topic and note information that you learn from each book. What ideas are the same? Are there some differences?

Kids Academy has some helpful resources for this skill:



Watch on [YouTube](#)

These three worksheets show this concept in practice.

TOWNS

Check the pictures that show towns.



Cities and Towns



Look at the pictures. Do you see a town or a city? Check the matching word.



city

town



city

town



city

town

CITIES



Check the pictures that show cities.



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Make time to pull out some magazines and read to your child. The benefits of listening comprehension will impact many facets of your youngster's early reading skills. Use the resources from Kids Academy as a springboard to get going on the right path.

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References:

https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/system/files/filedepot/4/msde-pedagogy-report-_appendix_2016.pdf

