

CAFÉ Strategy: Monitor and Fix Up

Good readers often stop to think about if what they are reading makes sense. They make sure they understand what is happening in the story or what the selection they are reading is about. If meaning breaks down during a story, good readers have strategies to go back and fix the problem. Some strategies a reader may use to assist in making sense of a story include: summarize text, go back and adjust the reading rate, reread text while thinking carefully, skim and scan the selection to gain meaning, or ask for help. Readers who monitor their own reading know and use these specific strategies when meaning breaks down and fix their reading to improve their comprehension.

Your child is working on the comprehension strategy, **monitor and fix up.** This strategy will help your child identify when meaning breaks down and will give him/her tools necessary to regain comprehension.

How can you help your child with this strategy at home?

- 1. When reading with your child, stop periodically and ask your child, "Does this make sense?" If not, ask your child what he/she could do to help gain understanding of what is being read.
- 2. Read to your child and model what it sounds like when you stop to monitor your reading. Let him/her hear the process you go through. Ask yourself the following questions: Who is this story about? What is happening in the story? What is the author trying to tell me? Let your child hear you answer the questions and go through the process of monitoring your comprehension.
- 3. Ask your child to create a list of his/her favorite fix up strategies. Remind your child to use these strategies when meaning breaks down. The goal is to coach your child to monitor comprehension and use the strategies until they become a habit.

Thank you for your continued support at home!

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