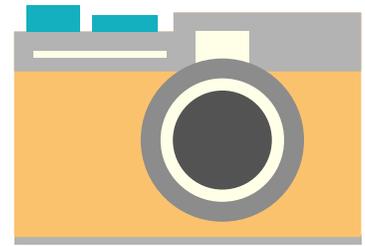


Homeschool Tips and Tools:

READING FOR Visual Learners



Learning to read is one of the most important milestones in a child's young life and education. Reading opens the doors to learning and sets the stage for a lifetime of imagination, understanding and accomplishment. Teaching reading to homeschoolers doesn't have to be an uphill battle. By keeping learning style and the stages of reading in mind, you can encourage your bookworms to have fun while learning to read.

THE 4 STAGES OF READING DEVELOPMENT

STAGE 1

Emergent readers are just beginning to understand the concept of print and letter-sound relationships. They know that words have meanings and letters make sounds, but are not yet connecting the sounds to form words.

STAGE 2

Early readers know the alphabet and letter sounds, are beginning to read one-syllable words, use strategies to predict words, and use picture clues to confirm predictions as they read.

STAGE 3

Transitional readers can identify story elements, read at a good pace, and utilize many strategies to decode unknown words. They also are able to read for meaning and answer reading comprehension questions based around who, what, when, where, why, and how.

STAGE 4

Fluent readers are confident in their understanding of text, have a better grasp of what they are reading, and are able to analyze details and understand themes and other literary elements. Fluent readers are able to read a variety of genres and understand, interpret, and evaluate the text.

Reading Strategies for Visual Learners

Early and Emergent Readers:

- ★ Sit alongside a reader and follow the written words in a storybook.
- ★ Create a bookmark with a large arrow that points toward the direction words should be read.
- ★ Use a pencil or highlighter to highlight the words as you read.
- ★ Use colorful printed material with lots of picture clues.
- ★ Create written letters and words using chalk, paint, etc.
- ★ Choose books with lots of word patterns and repetition.

Transitional and Fluent Readers:

- ★ Allow more partner reading experiences that include visuals.
- ★ Have transitional reader illustrate part of the story after reading.
- ★ Use higher level visuals like charts, maps, and graphs.
- ★ Analyze cause and effect, inferences, etc. through cartoons or illustrations. Then have the visual reader write the story to accompany.
- ★ Vary the genre to include visually appealing writing like haiku, limerick, poetry, etc.
- ★ Use graphic organizers to analyze and understand after reading.

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