



Parent Pipeline



CAFÉ Strategy: Make a Picture or Mental Image

Have you ever tried to remember where you put something? Usually the first thing people do is retrace their steps or visualize the last time they had the object. Making a picture in our mind helps us to recall events more clearly. The same is true when reading a story. When readers listen to or read text, they can create pictures in their mind or make a mind movie. This helps a reader to remember more of what they read or heard.

Your child is working on the comprehension strategy: **Make a Picture or Mental Image**. This is an excellent strategy for readers to use when recalling details in the text. Making a picture or mental image assists readers in understanding what they read by creating images in their mind, based on the details in the text and their prior knowledge.

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

1. Remind your child that when making a picture or mental image, readers put themselves in the story or text by making a mind movie. They also look for important details that help them make pictures in their minds.
2. Explain that there are many ways pictures help readers remember what they are reading. They can do this by:
 - thinking about what they know about the text before they read
 - using sensory details to create mental pictures (what did it smell like, feel like, look like, etc.)
 - looking back at the picture in your brain after the story to remember what has happened.
3. Read to your child and model how you make pictures in your mind. Then, give your child a chance to try it. Read a selection to your child and ask:
 - What do you see in my mind as I read this selection?
 - Can you see yourself in this selection?
 - Explain to me the picture in your mind.

Thank you for your continued support at home!

* Ideas and strategies are taken from: *The CAFÉ Book*, written by Gail Boushey & Joan Moser

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