Helping Your Child with Reading Questions in Year 2

Key points

- Reading comprehension (understanding what is read) in Key Stage 1 (ages 5 to 7) often focuses on three types of questions.
- Retrieval questions ask children to find and copy a fact that is written clearly in the text.
- Inference questions ask children to use clues from the story to work out something the author has not said directly.
- Sequencing questions ask children to put the events of a story in the correct order.
- Children sometimes struggle not because they cannot read, but because they are unsure what the question is asking them to do.
- Different schools may use different methods for teaching these skills, so it is always a good idea to check with your child's teacher.

Things to try at home

- While reading a bedtime story, ask 'Where does the book say the character is?' to practice finding facts.
- Ask 'How do you think that character is feeling?' and see if your child can spot a clue in the pictures or words.
- After a short story, playfully try to tell the events in the wrong order and let your child correct you.
- Use simple sentence starters together, such as 'I think... because...' to help them explain their ideas.

Find out more

- Your child's class teacher or the school's English lead.
- The official GOV.UK website for information on the National Curriculum.