

## Strategies to Assist With Reading Comprehension

1. Force the student to learn the meanings of words by removing visual cues such as illustrations during practice. When material is presented that will be graded, include visual aids that will assist in comprehension.
2. Encourage the student to read at a slower pace, and reflect on each sentence that has just been read before proceeding. Do not allow a sentence to be read until the meaning of the previous sentence is well understood. In time, the student may be able to read two sentences at a time or short paragraphs at a time.
3. Modify texts by highlighting main ideas.
4. Make certain that reading materials are written at the student's grade level (see assessment).
5. Supplement written material with outlines, study guides, or visual representations of essential information.
6. Reduce visual and auditory distractions that will compete with the student's attention.
7. Encourage the student to spend time with creative writing such as poems, descriptive paragraphs, short stories, etc.
8. Provide written materials that have high interest for the student.
9. Supplement written texts with tape recordings so that the student can listen while reading.
10. Assign a peer tutor to help the student understand difficult reading assignments.
11. Check with the student often to ascertain whether or not he/she is getting the correct meaning from readings.
12. Reduce distractions when the student is reading. However, do not insist on an environment that is too sterile where the student may feel uncomfortable.
13. Have the student read a passage silently and then summarize it out loud.
14. Practice reading comprehension by precisely following written instructions such as following a recipe, assembling a model, sewing a dress, constructing or assembling something, etc.
15. Encourage friends and relatives to write letters to the student.
16. Involve the student in games and activities that promote reading.
17. Identify recreational reading material with high interest and low vocabulary.
18. Allow additional time for the student to complete reading assignments, or assign shorter passages.
19. Encourage the student to ask for help in understanding difficult passages.
20. Always present important instructions orally to supplement written directions.