

GO AND BEYOND: READING COMPREHENSION BEST PRACTICES IN AN ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM

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Elementary school pupils must master reading comprehension as a foundational skill for both academic achievement and lifetime learning. Students' capacity to comprehend, evaluate, and remember information from texts can be improved with the use of efficient reading comprehension techniques. With the help of research-based techniques, this article examines the best approaches for raising primary kids' reading comprehension.

Vocabulary and past knowledge are closely related to students' comprehension because they enable them to draw meaningful connections between new and current material. By employing multimedia tools to provide context, connecting new material to students' experiences, and introducing important terminology before reading, teachers can help students with this. According to recent studies, reading comprehension and general academic success are greatly enhanced by a solid foundation in vocabulary and background knowledge (Shanahan, 2023; Snow & Matthews, 2023; Vaughn & Swanson, 2024).

Addressing the various learning requirements of elementary school pupils requires scaffolding and differentiated instruction. Adapting instruction to students' interests, learning styles, and readiness levels is known as differentiation. Teachers can tailor instruction to meet diverse student needs by modifying the learning environment, teaching methods, materials, and content. Effective scaffolding techniques, such as peer cooperation, clear instruction, and ongoing formative evaluation, have been shown in recent research to improve reading comprehension and student confidence (Fisher &

Frey, 2023; Vaughn & Swanson, 2024). Teachers can guarantee that all children, including those with learning disabilities, receive the assistance they require to succeed in reading by putting differentiated instruction and scaffolding into practice.

To create lifelong readers, elementary schools must cultivate a reading culture. Access to a wide variety of interesting books, student choice, and the encouragement of reading as a fun pastime all contribute to the development of a healthy reading culture. To make sure that students find books that fit their interests and skill levels, teachers can set up classroom libraries with a range of genres and reading levels. According to research, children are more likely to interact with texts and advance their literacy abilities when they see reading as a worthwhile and pleasurable activity (Gambrell & Morrow, 2023; Miller, 2024).

Through the use of these best practices, teachers may assist primary school pupils in acquiring excellent reading comprehension abilities that will serve them well throughout their academic careers. Lifelong readers are produced by a mix of education in specific strategies, engagement, vocabulary development, fluency practice, tailored support, and a strong reading culture.

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