

What Can I Do at Home

The Simple View of Reading is a basic way to think about how to get our children reading. This multiplicative equation states:

$$\text{Decoding} \times \text{Language Comprehension} = \text{Reading Comprehension}$$

Decoding is a child's ability to look at the letters and words on a page and turn it into speech.

Language Comprehension is a child's ability to understand the meaning of words and speech.

How can I help my child with decoding?

Discuss letters from speech to print:

- ★ Instead of saying “the letter a says /ă/”, ask your child “what letter *represents* the /ă/ sound?”

Segment words to build phonemic awareness:

- ★ Choose a word and say it aloud. (ex. *chop*)
- ★ Talk about the meaning of the word (*i.e. to cut into smaller pieces, we chop up our vegetables.*)
- ★ Tap the phonemes (sounds) of the word together. (/ch/-/o/-/p/)
- ★ Ask how many sounds does the word have? (3)
- ★ Say the word together again. (chop)

How can I help my child with language comprehension?

- ★ Read books together that would be too difficult for your child to read alone. Discuss vocabulary words and their meaning.
- ★ Use high level vocabulary words in your daily interactions.
 - Ex: Instead of saying “It’s time to *clean* up your toys”, say “It’s time to *tidy* up.”