



Parent Pipeline



CAFE Strategy: Trade a Word/Guess a Word That Makes Sense

After learning to skip a word and come back, readers gain confidence that if they don't know every word in a text, they have strategies to draw on. It is essential, however, that readers understand what they are reading. If they skip the word, come back, and are still unsure, it is a good idea to **trade a word/ guess a word that makes sense**. When readers encounter words they don't know, but they understand the gist of the text, they insert a word that makes sense in place of the unknown word.

The strategy, **trade a word/ guess a word that makes sense**, provides readers with the option to continue reading by using a similar word for an unknown word. Reading continues and meaning stays intact.

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

1. When reading a story with your child, cover a word or two in the text, leaving only the first letter showing. Model how you use context clues and look at the first letter of the word to "guess" a word that would make sense in the story. Continue reading the selection to see if your "guess" holds the meaning of the passage.
2. After modeling for your child, continue reading to the next covered word and let your child make a "guess". Remind your child to use context clues. Ask your child, "Look at the first letter or letters: what word would make sense in this sentence that begins with that letter's sounds?"
3. Play a game with your child. Say a sentence and leave a word out. Let your child guess a word that would fit in the sentence. Then, give your child the first letter of the word that you are thinking of to finish your sentence. Have your child make another guess. Check to see if your child's guess makes sense. Then, it is your child's turn to give you a sentence and leave a word out. This short practice can be done in a short drive to or from school. 😊

Thank you for your continued support at home!

- Written by: Allison Behne © www.thedailycafe.com
- Ideas and strategies are taken from: The CAFE Book, written by Gail Boushey & Joan Moser