



Parent Pipeline



CAFE Strategy: Retell the Story

When parents ask their children what happened in school that day, the response is usually one of two things. Either they are given a play by play synopsis or they are given the single word answer “nothing”. The strategy of retelling is similar.

Retelling a story helps readers recall what is happening in the story they are reading. It allows a reader to stop and monitor their understanding. A retelling usually includes characters, settings, problems, and the solution or the main ideas of the text. It involves telling what is important without telling too much. Many times children struggle with the concept of weeding out what is important. Often they either provide every single detail or they give a vague description that is hard to follow. Use the following strategies to help your child be successful in retelling.

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

1. When reading with your child, stop to think about what you are reading. Model this process aloud. Stop and reread if you can't remember.
2. When reading with your child, stop and have your child tell you what is happening in the story using the words: *first, next, then, last, and finally*.
3. Use the following questions to prompt your child to think about the story being read:
 - Who were the main characters?
 - What problem did the main characters experience?
 - How was the problem solved?
 - How did the story end?
 - What happened first, next, and last?
4. Allow your child to become comfortable with the strategy of retelling by retelling events they are familiar with. This is where you can help your child focus on weeding out minor details by centering their attention on what's important. Use some of the following prompts or come up with some of your own.
 - Tell me about the last time your family went out to dinner.
 - Tell me about what you did at school this week.
 - Tell me about a time when you went to a birthday party.
 - Tell me about the first time you lost a tooth.

Thank you for your continued support at home!

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Ideas and strategies are taken from: *The CAFE Book*, written by Gail Boushey & Joan Moser