



Recognise and Explain Cause and Effect Relationships

Understanding cause and effect relationships is a basic thinking skill. It is a strategy used by readers to understand why things happen the way they do in the text. Students are taught to look for clue words that will assist them in determining the cause and effect of the events in the text. It is a strategy that is not only used in reading, but it is experienced in day to day life. Readers who recognize cause and effect relationships understand that in text events happen (effects), along with the reason why they happen (causes). When students recognize this relationship, comprehension is increased.

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

1. Encourage your child to look for clue words when reading. These clue words include: because, if, then, since, so, therefore, and as a result of.
2. When reading with your child, show examples of cause and effect relationships in the text. This modeling is essential to understanding.
3. Sometimes we must infer the cause because it is not always stated in the text. If this is the case, always ask your child, "Why do you think this happened?"
4. Spark conversation about the text by using the following questions:
 - "What happened and why did it happen?"
 - "What were the clue words?"
 - "Why would this have happened?"
 - Give examples of cause and effect relationships throughout your life in your family, in sports, and in your friendships.

Thank you for your continued support at home!

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