

# Going on A Picture Walk with Your Child: A Pre~Reading Tool

## What Is A PICTURE WALK ?

A Picture Walk is an effective “prepare-to-read” strategy used to increase a beginning reader’s understanding of the story.

Paying attention to picture clues helps the reader read new unknown words. It’s similar to reading a “Wordless Picture Book” before reading its words. It’s an incredibly simple & fun way to begin reading text.

Here’s the Sequence I use when handing a “new” story to an Emergent Reader:

- Look at the cover picture & read its title/author. This is an important piece to the comprehension puzzle as a memory-shaker for Connecting to the story BEFORE reading it. Sometimes, though, the title can be a mystery clue.....What do you think this story is going to be about?
- Open the book to the first page. What is happening in the picture? Who is in the picture? Where is the story taking place right now? (inside/outside) Can you tell by looking at the picture when the story is happening? (day/night/weather) Is this story going to be real-life or make-believe? Why do you say that?
- (Turning to the next page) What is happening now in the story? (new characters? different setting?)
- As you go through the pages in the story, ask how some of the details are changing in the picture sequence.
- Have your child notice the expressions on the characters’ faces. Are they changing? Why do you think that?
- Is there a visual representation of the plot/problem in the story?
- Do the pictures show a variety of solutions or events?
- How is the story ending? What do you think about the way the story is told?
- So, give me a short re-tell of what you think the story is going to be about?
- If you have multiple children reading the story with its Picture Walk, prepare to be surprised at the variety of interpretations the Walk will bring. Fun Stuff!
- Here, too, is where that memory-shake can make a huge difference to the reader’s understanding of the story ~ Making A Connection ~ Ask & Discuss with each other: Has anything like this ever happened to you? Have you ever read another story like this? Do you think this story has anything to do with what’s going on in the world around us?

During the reading, prompt the reader to look at the pictures for clues when coming to an unknown word. It’s one of the most effective ways to:

- increase word recognition accuracy (Is that word part of the story in the picture? What would make sense there?);
- fluency (oh yes ~ with a quick glance to the picture);
- comprehension (that is exactly right ~ I see it there in the picture!)

Finally, a Picture Walk is a great way to build your beginning reader’s confidence to take risks when attempting new and unknown stories!