

Date:



Dear Parents:

Our next step is really important : it involves helping your child check if he really understands. In the previous step, he learned to put pieces of information together. Now we want him to check if he understands it.

This process is referred to as “comprehension monitoring” (checking your understanding). Then he needs to know what to do if he doesn’t understand. What should he do if the pieces just don’t fit together into a picture? This is where “repair strategies” come in. He learns what to do to try to fix the picture so it makes sense. We are working on two main repair strategies:

1. Asking the other person to repeat what he said—hopefully, he can hear it more clearly or remember it better if it is repeated. For example, there might be background noise that makes it difficult to hear everything. Maybe, he can’t remember everything said. He can simply ask, “Can you say that again, please?”
2. Asking the other person to explain part that he doesn’t understand. Maybe he doesn’t understand some words or terms.. For example, he might be told to sit beside Sophie but he’s not sure who that is—he can ask. He might be asked to put on his left shoe but he’s not sure which one is the left one—he can ask.

You can see that these are important things to learn so your child can advocate for himself in daily life.

Using these strategies in other places

We want to help him use his new skills and strategies in a variety of other times and places. Please help us think of times and places **at home**. When are some times that your child really needs to check if he understands? When is it really important to you that he lets you know if

What do I do if he starts asking for too many repeats and explanations?

One thing we have to watch for is relying too much on repeats and explanations. Sometimes, children won’t work as hard at understanding because they know they can just ask. We have to keep an eye and ear open for that possibility.

If you find that your child is asking you to repeat or explain a lot, check it out. See if he is trying to put the pieces together or if he is just sitting back and waiting to ask you to repeat or explain

If he is slipping a little and not listening as well as he can, tell him that you don’t mind helping him but he has to use his good brain too. Prompt him to listen hard and make a picture in his brain...then he can ask.



he doesn't understand? How about when he's out **in the community**. When is it really critical that he understands instructions or directions? When do you want to get some feedback from him if he doesn't understand something?

Write down some ideas in each column on the chart below. Please send it back to us so we can start working on these things.

How I want my child to be sure to understand directions or information: (carefully describe the situation and what you would like to see your child do)

At home	In the community

Helping your child learn to check for himself

One of the main things we are working on is to get your child to become more independent. Once we teach him a strategy, we want him to start using it on his own.

1. Check with him. After he listens or answers a question, ask him how he did it? Ask in a tone like you'd say, "you sneaky thing!" Say something like, "How did you know how to do that?"
2. Tell him what you saw him doing. You might say, "I saw that you were thinking in your brain."
3. Praise him when you see him using strategies. Say, "You really know how to help your brain. Good job!?"



Hmm, let's see. Do I really understand? I know, I'll ask to hear it again.