

IMPROVING STUDENT LITERACY THROUGH READING AND WRITING

Literacy fosters student motivation, increased self-esteem, and love of reading and writing.

Instruction should *emphasize* foundational skills such as decoding and spelling, and also highlight the purposes of reading and writing.

Instructional Strategies for Reading Comprehension

<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Suggestion when implementing</i>
1. Activate relevant prior knowledge (brainstorming)	- provide relevant knowledge (text, manipulatives) - structure brainstorming activities (graphic organizer)
2. Retell, reflect, relate: (question before, during and after)	- provide external references to support vocabulary (cues, dictionaries) - preteach vocabulary - provide organizers - provide opportunities to reread/lookback
3. Synthesize/summarize/make connections	- students verbalize thoughts about passage - review previous material (make connections with something they have already read)
4. Use mental imagery	- students draw images - reduce the amount of information contained in an image
5. Monitor comprehension	- provide self-checking activities - model comprehension by speaking aloud

Instructional Strategies for Writing

- select topics that are of personal interest to students
- encourage students to listen and use other's ideas (perhaps brainstorm on blackboard)
- use concrete objects, pictures/diagrams, and mental images as "thought starters"
- use drama and other kinesthetic activities or open-ended questions as thought starters
- ask students to explain the purpose of the writing assignment in their own words (clarify instructions)
- provide students with topic-relevant vocabulary
- provide students with a visual organizer to guide them through the process
- provide a planning template
- have students rebuild a text from a set of jumbled paragraphs or sentences
- provide a simply worded correction table (word wall)