

Reading Newsletter

May/June 2023



@Chariho_Reads



Chariho Reads

Background (or Prior) Knowledge



Background Knowledge

Decades of studies have shown that students can understand a text better if they already know a little bit about the topic.

Background knowledge is the glue that new information sticks to! This will support a child's comprehension (the goal of reading!)

For example, it's easier to understand a text about dinosaurs if a child already knows *the word* fossil and *the concept* that some animal species don't exist anymore.

Building background knowledge doesn't just happen between school hours. It is made up of the wide variety of experiences a child has throughout their day and life.

Building Background Knowledge at Home



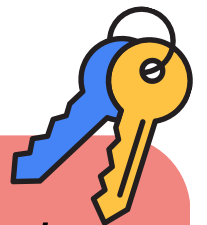
How can you help build background knowledge this summer?

Take summer field trips or virtual field trips

- Go to a sporting event, visit a zoo or aquarium, visit a historical landmark
- Go on a hike or visit a natural attraction in the area
- Watch videos on a variety of topics - volcanoes, jungles, etc.
- Search for virtual field trips online

Then, follow up with a book and conversation about the new information your child learned!

- Talk about the plants and animals you see, the rules of a game, the new things you learned, etc.
- Visit your local library to learn more
 - "That was interesting what we learned about butterflies today, let's read more about that!"



VARIETY of topics and concepts is the key to increasing children's background knowledge!