Goal: Comprehension

Strategy: Check for Understanding

Definition: A comprehension strategy that teaches children to stop frequently and check, or monitor, whether they understand what they are reading. This typically is a quick summary of what they’ve read, starting with “who” and “what.”

Why Children Need this Strategy: Often as beginning readers, children are so aware of reading accurately that they forget to take time and think about what they are reading, checking to see whether they understand the text. Advanced readers can develop the habit of reading through text without monitoring whether they were unaware of the Check for Understanding strategy as beginning readers.

Secret to Success: Knowing when we read that we must think about the story and realize what the author is trying to tell us or what we are learning from the book. Readers stop frequently to check for understanding or to ask who and what.

How I Teach It:

* This vital strategy is not only one of the first I introduce, but also one I like to model each and everyday of the school year.
* Model: “Let me see if I remember what I just read. I am going to start by thinking of who the story was about and what happened.”
* Continue to stop and periodically talk through the “who” and “what,” usually about three or four times during each read-aloud.
* Students Try: After modeling students, can begin to answer the “who” and the “what”.