How to Teach Children in to Predict What Might Happen from Details Stated and Implied

"In Key stage 2, pupils should be taught to understand what they read by predicting what might happen from details stated and implied."

National curriculum statement

Children will often make predictions without realising it. The key skill is for children to make predictions based on the details, either stated or implied, within the text. Children should learn to form answers to comprehension questions using evidence gathered from the text to support their predictions.

Key Vocabulary

prediction, context, explanation, evidence, details, implied, stated

Common Misconceptions and Errors

Children may make predictions about what they would like to happen next rather than what is suggested in the text.

Bringing English to Life

Use a variety of text types and even pictures, photos or videos to help develop prediction skills. Ask prediction style questions in other subjects too.

Example Questions to Develop Understanding

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 What is happening now in the text? What happened before this? What do you think will happen after?

- Do you think that will be important later in the story?
- What does this section suggest will happen next? Why?
- Do you think the choice of setting will influence how the story develops?
- What do you think will happen next? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.
- Why did the character do that?

Teaching and Learning Points:

- Provide children with texts that contain unfamiliar vocabulary and model how to use the context to determine the meaning of the words.
- Provide children with a start to a story and ask them to continue with it, using the context to predict what might happen next. It is important that children use the information provided in the text to make sensible predictions.
- Using pictures or video clips can be a good way to develop prediction skills.
- Include stem sentences in your teaching. For example, I predict that _____ will happen. I think this because of the ____ and the _____.
- Ask questions about predicting in other curriculum areas too.



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