

Literacy Lesson:

3 Ways to Read

I PICK a "Good Fit" Book

Children often start exploring books and reading before they are school age but many enter the classroom thinking that they cannot read. It was fun to remind the students that they are already readers if you consider that there are **3 ways to read**:

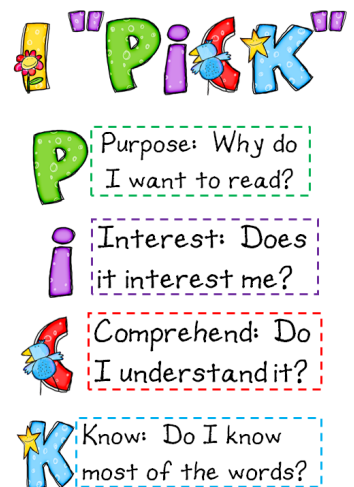
1. **Read the pictures.**
2. **Read the words.**
3. **Re-tell** what you have read or listened to.

And don't forget the importance of re-reading too!

Please remember these different ways to read as you explore various forms and levels of literature with your child throughout the school year.

In the classroom, we have been learning how to choose "**Good Fit**" or "**Just Right**" books and why it is important to choose books that we can read. Research shows when children are reading independently, they should be reading books they understand and can read. Reading books that are too difficult can lead to frustration, inability to understand the story, and then reading is no longer enjoyable. We want children to enjoy reading, which means it is important they are reading books they are interested in and are at their "**Just Right**" level! Research also shows that children are motivated to read when they can choose their own books.

Every year many parents ask, "How can I help my child choose books that he or she can read?" There is a very simple way to help your child choose "**Good Fit**" books. It is called **I PICK**. **I PICK** is an acronym that stands for: **I** choose books to read, **Purpose**, **Interest**, **Comprehend**, and **Know** the words.



Here are some easy steps that you and your child can follow in order to choose "**Good Fit**" books:

1. Have your child choose a book. This is the first I in **IPICK** which means "**I choose books to read**".
2. Ask your child, "What is your **purpose** for choosing this book?" You may also want to ask, "Is it for fun or to learn something?". This is the P in **IPICK** which means **purpose**.
3. Ask your child, "Is this a book you are **interested** in?" This is the second I, which means **interest**.
4. Have your child read a page of the book. After your child reads the page, ask your child, "Who did you read about and what did they do?". This is the C in **IPICK** which stands for **comprehend**. If it is a "**Good Fit**" book your child should be able to answer your question.
5. Have your child read another page (or use the same page) and ask, "Did you **know** the words?" This is the K in **IPICK** which stands for **know** the words. Your child should know all or almost all of the words in order for it to be a "**Good Fit**" book. (**The 5 Finger Test**: Track with your fingers when/if they come across words they are unsure of. If they get 5 fingers of unknown words the books is too challenging for them to read independently and they should look for a new book.)

Going through the steps of choosing a "**Good Fit**" book should only take a couple minutes, but does require repetitive practice. It has been my experience that many children can easily choose "**Good Fit**" books once they have mastered the process of **IPICK**. Other children may need more guidance from an adult as they learn to choose "**Good Fit**" books. This is an ongoing process that we will continue to learn and practice at school as well.

