



Reading for Meaning

Support Program



www.cognikids.org



Program Vision



The Reading for Meaning Program is designed to help children become confident, independent, and thoughtful readers who can understand, interpret, and respond to what they read. Rooted in evidence-based literacy practices and enhanced by the platform's visual, auditory, and interactive tools, the program helps learners go beyond decoding—toward *comprehension, reasoning, and meaningful engagement with text*.

The program creates a safe reading experience where children learn to make sense of words, sentences, and stories using multiple supports: visual cues, repetition, guided questions, audio narration, and interactive comprehension tasks. The aim is not only to build academic skill, but to foster curiosity, imagination, and a genuine love for reading.

Program Overview

Reading for meaning extends far beyond knowing letters or sounding out words. It involves:

- **Understanding vocabulary**
- **Holding ideas in working memory**
- **Identifying key details**
- **Making inferences**
- **Following sequences**
- **Connecting information**
- **Answering questions about text**
- **Reading with purpose**

This program strengthens these skills through structured, scaffolded, and developmentally appropriate activities that align with how children learn best: through visual supports, audio, repetition, and engagement with meaningful content.

Core Components of the Program



1. Building Vocabulary and Word Understanding

Children learn new words through:

- Picture-supported word introductions
- Audio pronunciation
- Matching activities
- Categorising and sorting
- Repeated exposure in different contexts

This ensures learners understand the words before encountering them in stories.

2. Improving Sentence Understanding

Children practise making meaning from individual sentences:

- Fill-in-the-blank
- True/false understanding
- Picture-to-sentence matching
- Identifying the key idea

These tasks reduce cognitive load and gradually build comprehension.

3. Story Comprehension and Engagement

Stories are presented with:

- Audio narration
- Pictures that support understanding
- Predictable patterns
- Guided comprehension questions

Children practise:

- ✓ recognising emotions
- ✓ recalling events
- ✓ understanding cause and effect
- ✓ drawing conclusions from clues

4. Inference-Making and Critical Thinking

Since inference is a major challenge for early readers, the program uses:

- “How does the character feel?”
- Visual clues to guide inference
- Step-by-step scaffolded reasoning



5. Sequencing Skills

Sequence understanding is essential for comprehension. Activities include:

- Ordering events
- Picture sequences
- Step-by-step retelling
- Sorting beginning/middle/end

These tasks strengthen both comprehension and executive functioning.

6. Strengthening Fluency and Stamina

Fluency supports meaning. The program builds fluency through:

- Repeated readings
- Audio-modelled expression
- Chunked text
- Predictable structures
- Short passages that grow longer over time

Challenges We Address

1. Difficulty Understanding Vocabulary

Our Response:

- Picture-supported words
- Repetition
- Categorising tasks
- Audio modelling

2. Weak Working Memory Affecting Comprehension

Our Response:

- Chunked text
- Visual story breaks
- Short passages
- Guided retellings

3. Struggling to Make Inferences

Our Response:

- Visual clues
- Scaffolded inference questions
- Slow pacing



4. Difficulty Sequencing Events

Our Response:

- Drag-and-drop ordering
- Step-by-step picture sequences
- Beginning-middle-end tasks

5. Literal-Only Comprehension

Our Response:

- Cause-and-effect matching

6. Low Confidence or Avoidance of Reading

Our Response:

- Audio support
- Predictable routines
- Encouraging feedback
- Tasks designed with guaranteed success
- Repetition without pressure

Alignment to the Platform's Cognitive Skill Areas

Attention and Focus (Selective, Sustained, Divided)

- Listening to extracts
- Picking the correct answer from choices
- Focusing on specific extract details
- Ignoring distractors during picture matching
- Holding attention through short, structured reading tasks

Memory (Working, Short-Term, Long-Term)

- Remembering extract and story events
- Recalling vocabulary
- Retelling sequences
- Matching repeated words
- Linking previous lessons to new content

Executive Function (Planning, Sorting, Categorising, Organising, Problem-Solving)

- Ordering story and extract events
- Categorising vocabulary
- Matching sentences to pictures
- Drawing conclusions from facts