Reading Strategies

- **Make it appealing** - Enhance the experience by talking about what's on the pages such as the colours, the letters, the pictures, as well as talking about what's taking place in the story. Also, get creative with your voice. You can't be too silly when reading with a child, the more exaggerated the voices, the better!

- **Encourage connections** – When children connect what they already know to what they read, it helps them focus. As you read to your reader, they will begin to associate the content of the book with other things you've read together, people you know, animals you've seen, places you've been and so on. Take time to allow children to ask questions that launch meaningful conversation within reading time.

- **Ask questions** - Asking open-ended questions encourages kids to look for clues in the text about what's taking place on the page or in the story. When you read together, ask questions to spark your reader's curiosity. Ask things like "What do you think will happen?" or "How is that character feeling?"

- **Look for clues** - When you combine what you already know with clues from a story, you can make guesses or predictions. These are inferences and making them is a terrific way to build reading comprehension. For example, when we read "Maya's eyes were red, and her nose was runny," we can conclude that Maya has a cold, allergies or has been crying. Help your reader do this as you read. If a character is wearing athletic clothes and sweating, ask them what the character might have been doing before.

- **Figure out what's important** - Some questions to ask your reader: "Who are the main characters?" "What's the most important thing that has happened in the story so far?" "What problem are the characters trying to solve?" When kids can point out what's important, they are more likely to understand what they read.

- **Check understanding** - It helps to encourage children to stop and ask themselves, "Is this making sense?" If your reader gets stuck, suggest rereading the part that didn't make sense. Try reading around the word, using other words in the sentence. Were there specific words that tripped your reader up? Then work together to resolve the confusion.

- **Build confidence** - Read aloud to your reader, and when it's time, have them read to you. Reading builds confidence in kids. There's nothing quite as enriching as sharing a book together, so elevate your reader's self-assurance by reading together.