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Helpful Hints for Earning by Learning Mentors

1. Be sure the child is reading at his / her readability level. The child's oral reading to you can determine this. (Five or more errors on a page is an indication that book is too difficult). Encourage the upper grade (3rd – 6th) to choose chapter books rather than picture books with a limited amount of reading.
2. Encourage the child to select fiction and nonfiction books. Be helpful in seeing that he / she is selecting books that are of interest to him / her.
3. Model for the child – in reading and answering questions.
4. In working with an individual child, read orally passages with the child.
5. With books that contain illustrations, talk to the child about the pictures and their connection to the story. In a group setting illustrations can be shared with the group.
6. Use Reading Comprehension Sheet – Questions to Ask when questioning the child. Tip: Keep this sheet by you at the session.
7. Ask children to summarize the whole story rather than page by page or chapter by chapter.
8. Have children connect story events and characters to real life experiences and people they know.
9. When working with a small group of children, engaging the whole group in discussion is fun. Group members should bring with them a second book to read while the mentor is working with an individual child.
10. Most important is to always use positive reinforcement and encouragement to every child.