

Reasons Background Knowledge Boosts Reading Comprehension

1. It Builds Up as a Child Progresses

A 5-year-old may not have the same background knowledge on a topic as a 15-year-old, but they will not be attempting to read the same texts. Whether your child is reading fiction or non-fiction, their prior knowledge will grow, and they can continue to apply it to their reading and writing.



2. It Allows Students to Infer Meaning

Your child's background knowledge allows them to infer a writer's meaning. At a lower level, this could be something like inferring that an author saying, "They felt blue," means that a character is sad rather than believing the character is the color blue.



3. It Makes Learning Easier

If your child has a general awareness and understanding of a topic, they can learn to understand the meaning of a new text more easily. This does not only come from school or the topics they study but also from things they read, watch, or hobbies outside of school. Simply put, the more your children learn, the easier they find learning to be.



4. It Builds Their Confidence and Nurtures Their Passions

Children acquire knowledge at a rate impossible for us as adults to replicate. Nurturing their passions and encouraging them to read more varied sources on a topic will build their confidence and help them soar personally and academically.



5. It Boosts Reading Comprehension

It is an unavoidable fact that background knowledge boosts reading comprehension. The two things are wound so tightly together that you cannot separate them. However your child acquires their background knowledge, the more they have the better their reading comprehension. This will continue in a virtuous cycle throughout their lives.

