

Learning together

Understanding New Words Based on Context

ACTIVITY #4

SEQUENCE: READING STRATEGIES –
1ST CYCLE – PRIMARY

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Purpose of the activity

This activity helps your child understand a text by using effective reading strategies. They will learn to understand words using clues in the sentence to check and adjust their reading.



Relevance of the activity

Your child is learning letter-sound correspondences to read words. At the same time, they are beginning to develop a mental lexicon of words they often see. By using clues in the sentence, they can check and adjust their reading, which helps them make connections between words they know orally and their written form.



Supplies

- Text *Flamie, the Pink Flamingo!* (see Appendix)

To carry out this activity, you can also use:

- the texts your child reads at school;
- a book at your child's reading level.



LET'S GO!

What?



The goal of this activity is to help your child understand words based on clues that are present in a sentence in order to check and adjust their reading.

Why?



To become a good reader, you must learn to recognize words instantly. First, you use strategies to read words in syllables and sounds, which helps you leave a trace of the word in your memory. After several repetitions, you can memorize the sequence of letters in words you often encounter and form a mental image of the word. It takes time for this to become automatic. That is why you can use clues in the sentence to help you check and adjust your reading.

When?



When you read texts, you should pay attention to clues in a sentence that could help you read more easily.

How?



Some words may be difficult to decode, which can make understanding harder. To help you, we will ask questions to find clues in the sentence. These clues will help you read the words better and check your understanding.

Remember that, when reading and writing, you always have to check two things:

- Is the word I read really the one written?
- Does the word I read make sense with the rest of the sentence?

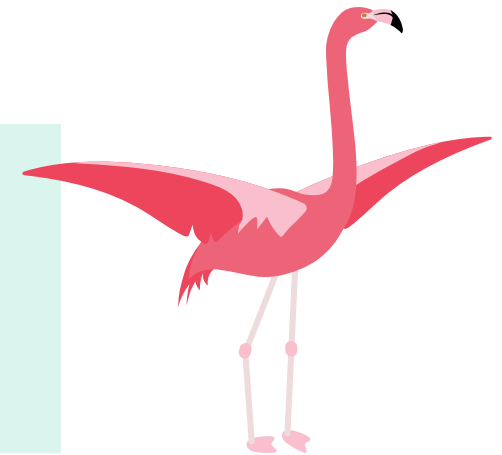
Take the time to read the text Flamie, the Pink Flamingo! with your child. Point to the third sentence on the third paragraph of the text Flamie, the Pink Flamingo!

Let's read this sentence aloud together:

"She eats small shellfish that look like tiny shrimp."

Some words may be more difficult. To help us, let's ask a few questions:

- **Who or what are we talking about in this sentence?**
We are talking about Flamie the Pink Flamingo!
- **What are we saying about her?**
We are saying that she eats small shellfish.



If a word is unknown, we look for clues in the sentence. For example, we may not know what "shellfish" means, but we read that they look like tiny shrimp. This helps us understand and create a mental image of the word.

It also makes sense with the rest of the text: we know that Flamie is pink because of what she eats. The fact that she eats small shellfish, like shrimp, helps explain this idea.

Point out the second sentence in the fourth paragraph to your child.

Let's try another example. Let's read this sentence aloud together:

"They stop her from sinking into the silt and help her keep her balance."

Some words may be more difficult. To better understand, let's ask questions:

- **Who or what are we talking about?**
We are talking about "they," which refers to Flamie's webbed feet.
- **What are we saying about them?**
Her webbed feet prevent her from sinking into the silt and help her stay balanced.

If a word is difficult, we look for clues in the sentence. For example, "silt" can mean "mud." We understand that her feet prevent her from sinking into the mud.

We can also check the meaning of "sinking" by thinking of "sliding" or "getting stuck." This confirms that the sentence is about not slipping into the mud.

This way, we better understand the sentence and check that we read the words correctly.

You can now practise this strategy with a book adapted to your child's reading level.



Don't forget!

I read, I think, I check if it makes sense!



Flamie, the Pink Flamingo!

Do you know Flamie? She is a beautiful pink bird, who lives in marshes and lakes. Flamie is very elegant with her pretty feathers and long, thin legs.

Flamie likes to be with other pink flamingos. Sometimes, they band together in big groups to eat and rest.

Do you know why Flamie is pink? It's because of the food that she eats. She eats small shellfish that look like tiny shrimp.

Flamie moves around easily in the water thanks to her webbed feet. They stop her from sinking into the silt and help her to balance.

When you see a pink flamingo like Flamie, take a moment to admire their beauty. Pink flamingos are extraordinary animals!



Source: Chat GPT