ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR READING COMPREHENSION

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People assumed that reading is simple thing to master; where in reality, it is a complex process that requires many different skills.

There are so many different researches regarding the development on reading comprehension, concluding that reading with comprehension comes to happen when other elements of reading such as phonological awareness, word recognition, vocabulary and so on, are present and mastered already.

On the other hand, Brasa (2017) stated on his study that there is significant difference on the learners’ reading comprehension score based on their learning style; while Peets (2017) overall insight suggests that bilinguals are unique from monolinguals in the manner of which they make use of the resources available for them to achieve reading comprehension.

Different conclusions are emerging but still reading comprehension is quite challenging for children for so many reasons. Knowing the reasons besides of the skills they have, the following can help to get right support for them.

1. Decoding. It is the application of knowledge about the letter-sound relationships, and letter patterns, to pronounce written words right. Pointing out on these relationships makes children recognize familiar words quickly and to understand words they haven’t seen before.

2. Fluency. It is the ability to read with speed, accuracy, and proper expression. Children must be able to read fluently whether they are reading aloud or silently for them to understand what they are reading. Also, when reading aloud, fluent
readers should read in phrases and considering the appropriate execution of intonation.

3. Vocabulary. It refers to the words that a student can read and understand. When readers know more words, they are more able to understand what they read. Understanding the meaning of words has a strong connection with that of understanding a story, textbook or other reading materials.

4. Sentence construction and cohesion. Connecting ideas might called cohesion, and composing sentences seem like writing skill, but these skills are important for reading comprehension as well. Knowing how ideas get connections at the sentence level helps the readers get meaning from passages and entire texts.

5. Reasoning. Relating someone’s past experiences or prior knowledge is also important about what they read. In this case, they could be able to “read between the lines” and suddenly pull out the meaning even if not literally spelled out.

References:

http://www.ejournal.upmi.ac.id/index.php/focusupmimedan/article/view/129