IMPORTANCE OF DECODING AND LANGUAGE COMPREHENSION TO READING COMPREHENSION

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When we say reading it is getting meaning from a print or any written text. The significance of reading in learning is unquestionable. Every student should be able to read and understand what they read. Everyone must know how to read as part of one’s life even at an early age. As a teacher, it is one of our tasks to make sure that our pupils will learn how to read since reading can help them change their life for the better.

Before Pandemic time, when there is a normal education set-up, teaching how to read with comprehension is one of the battles teachers faced and even now. Pupils with poor reading comprehension, especially in higher grades are encountered by many teachers in their respective classes. This problem affects their learning since it is through reading with comprehension learner may understand the knowledge and skills that he/she needs to learn.

When we say comprehension, it is understanding and interpreting what you read. Reading consists of two (2) components: decoding and language comprehension. Teachers must understand that reading comprehension can only achieve if the pupils have decoding skills and language comprehension. Decoding is reading the words accurately while language comprehension is the ability to gain meaning from oral words when they are parts of sentences. According to Kamhi, word recognition is skill that can be taught and learned, while comprehension is not a skill.
Both components are needed to make reading comprehension possible for our learners. It does not mean that when a child has a great decoding ability or word recognition, reading comprehension is possible, or in the other way round, it is not enough that the pupil has sufficient language comprehension.

Teachers should ensure that every pupil has great decoding skills and language comprehension for his/her to have excellent reading comprehension. The level of decoding skills and language comprehension that have been developed for a child will also be the level of his/her reading comprehension. Poor word recognition and language comprehension will result in poor reading comprehension, poor reading comprehension will result in poor learning. Based on a research-supported model of the reading process, Simple View of Reading (Gough & Tunmer, 1986), reading comprehension is a combination of the two essential components meaning, strong language comprehension abilities achieve reading comprehension equal to his decoding skills.

So, if we want our children to learn the lessons in our classes very well, reading comprehension is the key. We should work out their decoding skills and language comprehension.

References:
