

# Strategies to Improve Reading

## Level 1- Basic

Reading: Kids who are scoring in the level one range most definitely have issues with comprehending the text. These students' actions should focus on comprehension monitoring techniques. Students should 'pick a few of the comprehension monitoring strategies they think would best help them to understand text.

Actions-When I do not understand what I am reading, I will:

- Read on to, see if the confusion is clarified
- Read aloud to help me understand
- Slow down because harder text should be read slower
- Look carefully at the illustrations, text features and punctuation
- Stop and think about what I have already read
- Ask a question
- Picture what I am reading
- Write about what I am reading or draw a picture
- Identify any confusing words. Does the surrounding text help?
- Retell the main points

## Level 2- Below Standard

Reading: Students who score in the level two range need to continue using their comprehension monitoring techniques. In addition, they need to focus on test taking strategies and using evidence from the text to support their written response answers.

Actions-When I am taking a reading test, I need to:

- Read the test questions before I begin reading the text
- Review and reread my answers to make sure I didn't make any mistakes
- While reading the text, I need to make sure I underline important parts and take notes in the margins to help me remember
- For short answer and extended response questions I need to:
  - Write in complete sentences
  - Write neatly so others can read my writing
  - Use evidence from the text to support my answer
  - Make sure to answer all parts of the question
  - Whisper read my answer to myself to make sure it makes sense

## Level 3- Standard

You have met standard and are on target.

- Meet with your teacher and ask them for ways to challenge yourself in this area. Remember meeting standard means your on target not "you can relax and coast along"
- Read more challenging material.

## Level 4- Above Standard

You show a strong grasp of the material and skills.

- Meet with your teacher or counselor to see if you are appropriately scheduled in challenging classes.
- Your reading skills improve the more you read. Challenge yourself with different genres and levels of reading material.

# Strategies to Improve Writing

## Level 1- Basic

Writing: Student who score in the level one range most definitely have issues with all areas of writing. The best place for level one students to start is in the area of content and organization.

Writing:

Actions-In order to improve my writing I need to:

- Focus on one idea
- I need to think of reasons to support my idea
- I need to elaborate or add detail to those ideas

Once I have an idea I need to make sure my paper is organized. To do this I should

- Have an introductory paragraph that states my topic and reasons
- Have a middle that elaborates and expands on each of my reasons
- Use transitions to start off each paragraph
- Have a conclusion that restates my topic and reasons

Of course I always need to reread my papers and check for convention (spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, paragraphs) errors.

### **Level 2- Below Standard**

Writing: Students who score in the level two range usually have issues with elaboration and adding detail to their writing. The best place for level two students to focus is on evidence.

Actions-In order to improve my writing I need to:

- Elaborate on the reasons that support my topic. This means I need to make sure I have:
  - Details
  - Examples
  - Anecdotes (share a story)
  - Facts
- I need to continue making sure my paper is organized (it has a beginning, middle, transitions, and end)
- I read my rough draft and edit and revise as needed
- I reread my final draft to make sure I have corrected any convention errors

### **Level 3/4 Standard and Above Standard**

Writing: Student who score in the level three or four range are at standard, but in order to improve their writing they most likely need to work on their writing style.

Actions-In order to improve my writing style, I need to:

- Make sure my sentences vary widely, flow easily, and invite reading aloud
- Make sure my word choices are precise, vivid, and active
- Make sure my voice is confident and engaging. My paper needs to take into account my audience
- I need to read and notice the different writing styles author's use and try to apply that to my own writing
- Continue to keep my papers organized and the content focused on one topic

## **Strategies to Improvement Math**

### **Level 1—Beginning Understanding**

**Math:** Students who are scoring in the level one range may have multiple issues which impact their understanding of mathematics. Students need to know that math makes sense and that all problems are solvable. These students' actions should focus on details in the problem, monitoring their understanding of mathematics, and of what the assessment is asking of them.

Actions: When I do not understand what I am supposed to do, I will:

- Read on to see if the confusion is clarified
- Slow down because harder text should be read slower
- Read the question and information again
- Ask a question
- Identify any confusing words. Does the surrounding text help?
- When answering a question use information from the text and your work as evidence to support your answer.
- Be sure to include units with numbers.
  - 40 square inches rather than 40
- Start with what I know and what I am supposed to find out
- Make a plan and then check it with someone
- Meet with the teacher to make sure I know what to do
- Meet with my teacher, on a regular basis, before or after school to get the time I need to understand what I am doing

## **Level 2—Below Standard**

**Math:** Students who score in the level two range need to continue monitoring their understanding and develop mathematical understanding. In addition, they need to focus on justifying their solutions mathematically.

Actions—When I am taking a math test, I need to:

- Read the test question again to be sure I answered the right thing
- Review and re-read my answers to make sure I didn't make any mistakes or leave out anything
- While reading the text, I need to make sure I underline important parts and take notes to help me remember
- Make a plan for how to solve the problem
- For short answer and extended response questions I need to:
  - Make sure my answer is complete
  - Make sure I proved my answer is correct
  - Use math vocabulary where possible
  - Make sure to answer all parts of the question
  - Whisper-read my answer to myself to make sure it makes sense

## **Level 3—Meeting Standard**

**Math:** You have met standard and are on target. Remember meeting standard means you are on target. You need to, at least, stay on target every year. Meeting standard does not mean, "you can relax and coast along"

- Meet with your teacher and ask him/her to challenge yourself in areas of strength
- Determine which areas you could still improve in and work to improve those areas
- Determine what you have done in the past to meet standard and do those things
- Challenge yourself to go above and beyond
- When you sense understanding is breaking down, don't wait to fix it. Use the strategies you know or try one of the above strategies.

#### **Level 4—Exceeding Standard**

**Math:** You show a deep understanding of the mathematical concepts, and you accurately solve problems.

- Challenge yourself to go above and beyond
- When understanding breaks down, use your strategies to fix it.
- Meet with your teacher to get challenge problems