

Conferring with Your Student Reader at Home

Step 1 : Initiate the Conference

- Briefly look over the text the student is reading to familiarize yourself with it. Begin the conference by asking the student to tell you about the text. Ask:
 - ◆ What is your (book) about so far?
- If necessary, ask questions like these to probe the student's thinking:
 - ◆ Why did you choose this (book)?
 - ◆ Do you like this (book)? Why or why not?
- Ask yourself :
 - ◆ Is the student able to tell what the text is about?

Step 2 : Listen to the Student Read Aloud

- Have the student read aloud a few pages from where he or she is currently is in the text. After the student reads, ask and discuss:
 - ◆ What is the part you just read about?
- If the student is able to tell what a passage is about, go on to Step 3.
- If the student has difficulty, repeat this step, this time having the student reread the passage silently. If the student continues to struggle after the second reading, skip Step 3 and go on to Step 4.

Step 3 : Discuss the Text

- Notice where the student is in the text, and ask the student comprehension questions according to which strategy you would like for the student to practice. Refer to the *Reading Comprehension Strategy Questions* resource sheet.
- Ensure you are picking strategies that are appropriate for the context of the story and the text's genre.
- If the student is not able to answer the questions, try :
 - ◆ Asking the question in a different way
 - ◆ Identify the part of the text that has clues to answer the question
 - ◆ Modeling out loud how you would answer the question

Step 4 : Discuss Text Level

- Have the student evaluate the level of the text by asking:
 - ◆ Do you think this (book) is just right for you - not too difficult and not too easy? Why do you say that?
- Ask yourself :
 - ◆ Is the student able to determine whether he or she comprehends the text?
 - ◆ Is this text at the right level for this student?