

STUDY SKILLS STRATEGIES TOOLBOX

App on iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch – www.istudyapp.com

1. Reading Comprehension

- pre-reading vocab section
- multi-meaning, multi-use vocab
- discussion - main idea and details
- 5W's gist sentence
- asking questions – before, during and after reading
- reading carefully
- asking "what strategy"
- same or different meaning with same or different words

2. ASK QUESTIONS sheet - “Questions Therapists May Ask” to help formulate questions

- Memory
 - facts, definitions, generalizations, values judgments
- Translations – express ideas in different forms
- Interpretation
 - comparative, implications, inductive, quantitative
- Application – solve a problem – use other types of thinking
- Analysis – reorganize and apply logic
- Synthesis – use original, creative thinking to solve a problem
- Evaluation – make judgments based on clearly defined standards

"Question Starter" sheet “Using Questions to Improve Understanding”

- formulate questions
- themes, generalizations
- values - compare & contrast
- alternate points of view, alternate solutions to problems
- alternate title or ending

Asking questions - QtA approach

- (dialog, interrupt, challenge, prompt)
- What’s the author’s point? What’s the author trying to say?
- What does that mean? What’s going on here?
- How does that add to something we were just talking about?
- You’re onto something...what’s that all about?
- So is that all there is to it?
- Let’s go back and read that section again to clarify any confusion

3. Graphic Organizers

- K-L-W chart - study strategy for organizing info
- graphic organizers
- main idea & details chart

- story mapping
- Four Square

4. Study Skill Book – HM Study Skills Program Level II

- Listening Carefully
- Note Taking
- Traditional Outlining
- Mapping, Diagramming, Drawing
- Note Taking while Listening to Lecture-

While student (S) reads paragraph aloud, I check decoding - also "multi-modal" approach to have S hear and see it at the same time.

After each instructive section, S would retell it in your own words, giving the main idea and details - benefits of listening & note taking:

- both hearing & seeing
- going over material several times (repetition)
- have notes to refer back to later for study guide

Discuss lesson on "How to be an active listener" to generate these guidelines:

- ask yourself questions about what you hear
- picture in your mind what's going on
- summarize it in your own words
- listen to figure out the main ideas and details
- write main ideas and important details
- write what the teacher says is important

Do a practice exercise, taking notes during my five-minute lecture, then S retell to me what was learned by referring back to the notes and write section titles, then transfer notes onto a graphic organizer. This is a model of what could be done at home each evening after the lessons at school.

- Way to Read a Textbook- Section V

While S reads paragraph aloud, I checked her. After each instructive section, retell it in your own words. Discuss lesson on strategy or method, what each stage means and entails:

- survey - look over "road signs" that signal what's coming
- read and take notes
- review - ask yourself questions

Do a practice exercise, looking over it, read, take notes, and review by retelling me what was learned by referring back to the notes, then transfer notes onto a graphic organizer to shorten and organize what was written. This is a model of what could be done at home each evening after the lessons at school.

- "Preparing for and Responding to Test Essay Questions" – Section XI
- what to do before, during and after - plan, write, review
- plan your time - how long to spend on each step
- purpose of essay - organize info, represent what you know in a composition using main ideas and supporting details
- steps in writing essay
 - read all questions first - read questions carefully to understand all the terms and parts
 - jot down brief outline
 - begin with thesis statement
 - write out answer with explaining/defending your points
 - read over & correct or add to your answer
- understand differences between commonly used essay starters: describe, summarize, compare, contrast, explain, evaluate, criticize, discuss

Other Techniques to Build Attention

1. Rhythmic Writing activity on the chalkboard to focus attention and hone concentration.
2. Auditory Memory Training Exercises (AMTE)
 - strategies of chunking, categories, looking for patterns
 - strategies of finding meaning, organizing on a continuum like smallest to greatest
 - use categories to organize info
3. "Time Structure Questions" - tell how many things we did today, what were they, in order - practice recalling and organizing information to use again later - tell these 8 things to mom right after class and to parent tonight

Other Techniques for Building Comprehension & Meaning

1. Following Directions - tricky sentences, needed to read carefully to figure out what to do and what NOT do.
2. Analogies - work on vocab, finding relationships & patterns, verbal expression
 - develop bridge sentence
 - discuss possible right answers and explain why or why not
 - refine relationship, revise bridge sentence, defend answer, find precise term
3. Inference (Reading & Thinking Books, Reading & Reasoning books)
4. Kim Marshall Reading Series
 - read passage
 - answer questions in your own words without looking back using short, complete sentences

- read story aloud and/or discuss the answers with someone
- write a list of 10- 15 key words from the passage
- without looking back, rewrite the passage in your own words in 3 – 4 paragraphs
- use the Question Starters sheet to generate and formulate your own questions about a passage

Taking a practice test helps you learn and remember more than studying the material a second time.

Motivation by rewards or by high interest or intellectual curiosity helps you learn faster and better.

How we think about ourselves affects our ability to learn (fixed or growth mindset – Carol Dweck)

Just before studying something, make a list of 5 ways that this matters to me – will cause you to learn easier & better – Think for a few moments about WHY you want to or need to learn this.

Too much pressure – don't learn; too bored – don't learn; find middle ground!