

Parent to Parent of Georgia Literacy Training Series



Understanding the importance of building
background knowledge

Why Background Knowledge Matters

- Helps children make sense of new ideas by connecting them to what they already know
- Supports comprehension by helping children make connections and understand deeper meanings
- Builds confident readers by exposing them to a variety of experiences and vocabulary

How to Build Background Knowledge

Provide Real-Life Experiences

- Zoo or museum visits introduce new vocabulary and concepts
- Talking about outings helps children connect experiences to books
- Real-world activities spark curiosity and a love of learning

How to Build Background Knowledge

Turn Daily Routines into Learning Opportunities

- Cooking introduces vocabulary like “measure” and “ingredients”
- Shopping trips teach children about categories, prices, and decision-making
- Gardening introduces concepts of growth, nature, and responsibility
- Conversations during daily routines naturally build language, and comprehension

Make Connections to Reading

- Connect real-life experiences to books and stories at home
- Link books to holidays, recipes, or family traditions to deepen understanding
- Choose books related to your child's interests to keep them engaged



<https://youtu.be/-XzSmvxF69U>

Please complete this questionnaire.

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Strategy: Build Background Knowledge



<https://forms.office.com/r/APZJcB2GP4>

Resources:

- [Recht, D.R. and Leslie, L., 1988. *Effect of prior knowledge on good and poor readers' memory of text.* Journal of Educational Psychology, 80\(1\), p.16.](#)
- [Making connections when reading](#)