Supporting Independent Reading

Purpose: When reading independently, children are able to apply the reading skills they have learned in order to gain and maintain understanding. Independent reading provides the practice that children require to become successful, self-regulating, self-monitoring readers. Feedback is critical to the process to ensure children are reading "just right" books and reading for understanding.

Choosing a "Just Right" book

Choosing a "Just Right" book is a skill that takes some children a long time to master. The I-PICK strategy is a good method to help students understand how to select a book that is a good match for them.

I- I choose a book

P- Purpose (Why do I want to read it?)
I- Interest (Does it interest me?)
C- Comprehend (Do I understand what I'm reading?)
K- Know (Do I know most of the words?)

When to check-in on independent reading?
- Discuss reading at the dinner table. Make it a routine to talk about what is happening in your child's book each night. Your child can share what has happened in recent readings. The family can discuss what might happen next.
- Set an independent reading time each night and build in time to discuss what your child is reading regularly.

How to check in on reading?
It is important to check in on the book your child is reading and how your child understands what is read. Children should only be reading books independently that they are able to read with accuracy, fluency and understanding. Here are questions to ask to support the use of reading strategies that assist with comprehension.

Reading Strategy	Questions to Ask	Reading Strategy	Questions to Ask
Predict	• Tell me what you think will happen next in the text. Why do you think that is so? • What do you think this is about? Why?	**Clarify**	• Identify a difficult word, sentence, or part. How did you figure it out? • Show me a place where you had to read twice to help you understand what you were reading.
Question	• What is a question that you could ask about this page? What is the answer? How did you get that answer? • Ask the child: who, what, when, where, why, or how questions about the text.	**Summarize**	• Summarize this [paragraph, page, chapter]. • What is this mainly about? • Is there a problem to be solved? If so, what? • What are the essential details to remember?