Providing Feedback to Readers When They Make a Mistake

This resource offers some prompts you can use to offer students feedback to help them correct errors as they read. We often fall back on the same few responses to students, e.g. "try again" or "sound it out," which are helpful in some instances and less helpful in other.

The Prompting Guide on the next page provides different phrases you can use to support your student's efforts to tackle an unknown word or go back and read a missed word correctly. The prompts are divided by: Meaning (for when the word a student read doesn't make sense with the context), Structure (for when the word read is not grammatically correct), Visual (for when the word does not match what is written), and General "Fix-It" (for encouraging the student to go back and self-correct).

Try experimenting with different prompts to respond to your student's errors in your next session and see what works best for you and them.

Prompting Guide

Prompts for Meaning:

Did that make sense?

Look at the picture and think about what would make sense there.

It could be _____ but does that make sense?

Prompts for Structure (Syntax)

Does that sound right?

Can we say it that way?

Prompts for Visual:

What letter does it start with?

Did that match?

If that word was _____ what would you expect it to start with?

It could be _____ but look at . . . (the last letter, first letter, the middle letter)

Do you recognize a part of that word?

General (Fix-it) Prompts:

Can you go back and find the hard part?

Try that part again.

What did you notice?

Were you right?

How did you know?

Why did you stop/pause?