

Psych Ed

Assessment Services

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Teaching Reading Comprehension

Difficulties with reading comprehension are usually related to deficits in:

- word reading
- vocabulary
- background knowledge
- abstract reasoning
- difficulties remembering what was read

If it is a homework assignment, then systematic checking of each of these areas will quickly show what help is required e.g. the passage needs to be read to the child, the child needs to be taught the meaning of some words, a movie/documentary/YouTube video needs to put the information into a visual context, the child needs to be shown how to make an inference, a list of names and places child has difficulties remembering or a time line of events needs to be created.

At school, reading comprehension questions usually have to be written down. Children who have deficits in writing skills can receive poor marks in reading comprehension, because they could not write down their answer.

If that is the case, the Individual Education Plan (IEP) should provide for “alternative assessment methods: provision of scribing and/or oral assessments”.