Parent Pipeline

CAFE Strategy: Cross Checking

When reading a book for pleasure or for information, chances are you will come to a word or two you are unsure of. You probably will use the accuracy strategy of **cross checking** without even thinking about it, because it is second nature to you as a reader to read accurately. Accuracy is not second nature to children learning to read. It is something that needs to be taught using a variety of strategies.

Your child has been introduced to the accuracy strategy of **cross checking.** It is important to slow readers down when they come to a word they don't know and teach them to apply the strategy of **cross checking** so they are able to fix the meaning and not just skip the word. **Cross checking** requires a person to constantly think and monitor meaning. It is a strategy for ensuring the words and pictures read make sense and match the letters on a page.

How can you help your child with this strategy at home?

1. Listen to your child read. When he comes to a word he is unsure of, remind him to cross check. Ask:
   - Does the word you are reading match the picture or letters written?
        (they cross their right arm over their body)
   - Does it sound right?
        (their left arm crosses over their body making an X)
   - Does it make sense?
        (both arms come down with hands pointing to the ground)

Doing physical movements with each question helps children to remember the questions.

2. If your child is having difficulty with this strategy at home, break down the process:
   - Have her stop reading when meaning breaks down.
   - Tell her to look at the letters and say the sounds or look for word chunks in words.
   - Remind her to use the pictures to help.

3. To make your child aware of using this strategy, give him a piece of paper and tell him to make a tally mark each time he uses the **cross checking** strategy.

Thank you for your continued support at home!