



TEACHER
TRAINING

*Communication development
course*

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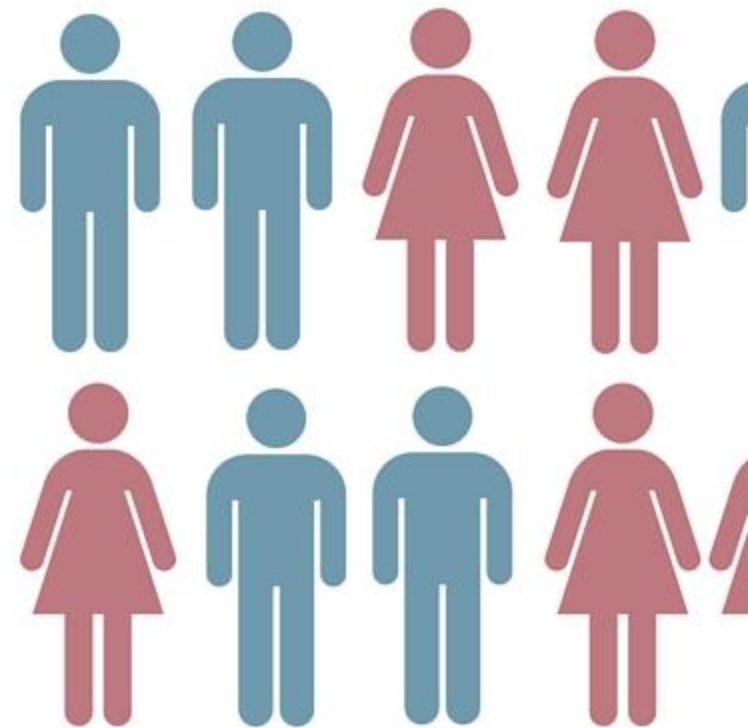
Why are we here today ?

5 out of 10

Children struggle to read at their grade level

How can we change this ?

"Teachers are going to be India's most important investment in the coming years to change the future of the country"




Source: Aser Report 2014



What we will LEARN



PART ONE: COMPREHENSION AND LISTENING STRATEGIES

1. Describe and Explain
 2. Read Aloud
 3. Listening Strategies
 4. Deciphering Texts Effectively
 5. Test how well have your students listened ?
 6. Practise Listening
 - 7.Q & A
- 

Describe and Explain

"Everything in writing begins with language. Language begins with listening." -Jeanette Winterson

1. One of the best ways to help children understand comprehension passages is to **increase their vocabulary.**

2. When a child comes across phrases or ideas **that they do not know or understand, they automatically stop concentrating and being attentive.** Some children become nervous when confronted with something they do not know.

3 One way for teachers to get over this is to **explain the lesson to the student before it is studied.**

4. Explanations should be **descriptive and imaginative** so that students are able to build pictures in their minds.

E.g. If your comprehension passage or story is set in a jungle, describe it in detail.

An interactive discussion with your students will build vivid images in their minds and these images will remain with the students and be easily remembered.

Read Aloud

"We have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we can speak" - Epictetus

One important reason for teachers to read aloud to students in the classroom is because a **child's ability to read is usually well below his ability to listen.**

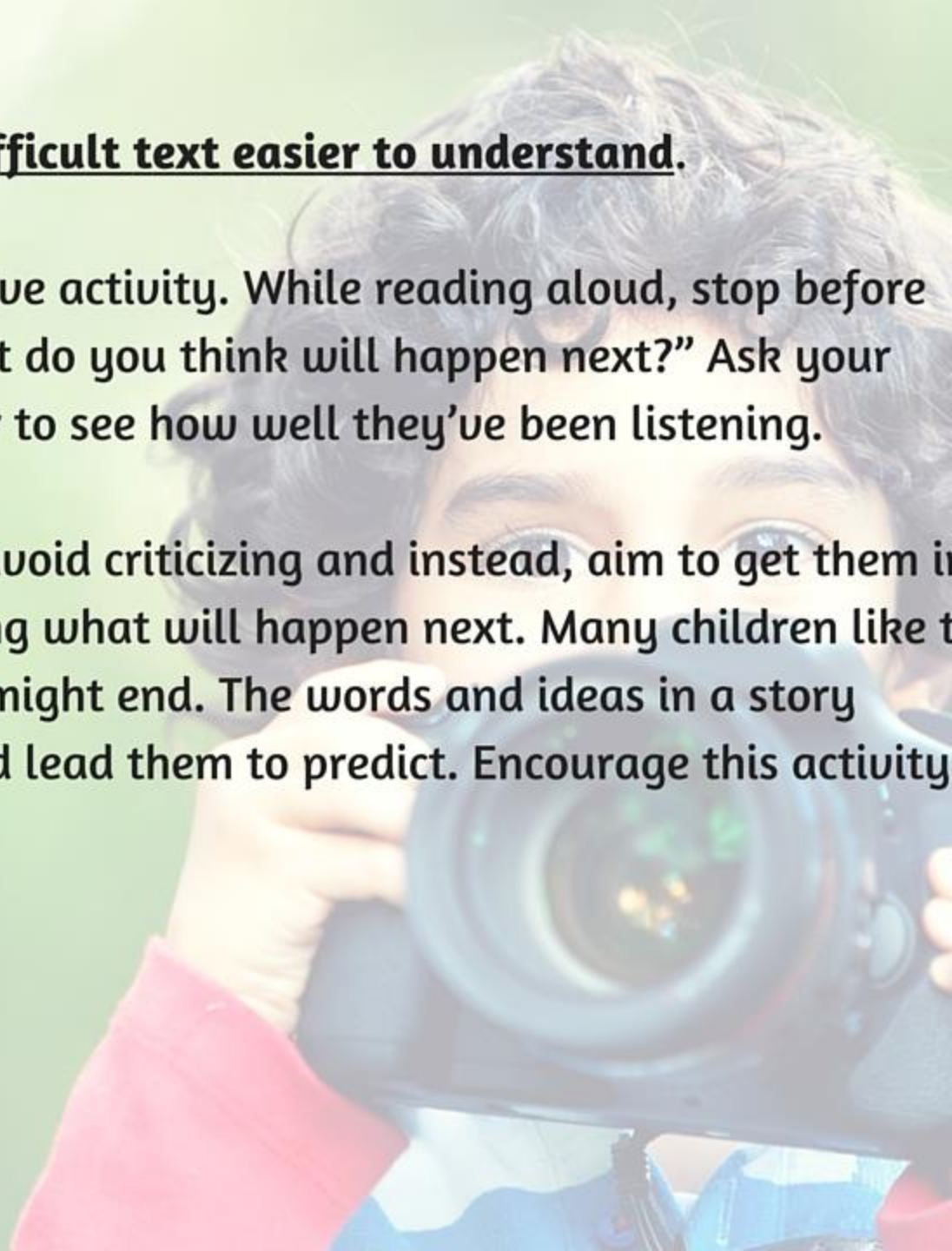
A six year old child does not have the ability to read books that an eight year old can read, but when he listens to a story, a poem or a passage being read out aloud he is able to understand much more than if he would have if he had to read it himself.

Reading aloud can benefit students at all levels. **Reading aloud to children stimulates their imaginations and emotions; exposes them to a range of literature; enriches their vocabularies and understanding of different language patterns.**

Reading a story aloud **makes difficult text easier to understand.**

Make reading aloud an interactive activity. While reading aloud, stop before turning the page and ask, “What do you think will happen next?” Ask your students to explain their answer to see how well they’ve been listening.

If they haven’t been listening, avoid criticizing and instead, aim to get them in the interesting habit of predicting what will happen next. Many children like to discuss and decide how a story might end. The words and ideas in a story stimulate their imaginations and lead them to predict. Encourage this activity



Listening Strategies

“I like to listen. I have learned a great deal from listening carefully. Most people never listen.” – Ernest Hemingway

Teach children how to listen by -

- a. Looking for **key words**
- b. Finding the **main idea**
- c. **Guessing meanings**
- d. **Seeking clarifications**

Listening for the general gist – Teach children that even if there are a few words or phrases in a passage or story that they are unsure of, they can still understand and grasp the central idea.

One need not know every single word to understand a passage.

Deciphering Texts Effectively

1. New words often prevent students from understanding a text that they are reading or listening to.
2. When encountering a new word, just 10.5% choose to ignore the word and keep on reading or listening, 42.4% try to guess its meaning and 47.4 % feel depressed and cannot listen or read anymore.

Failing to understand a word is therefore, a real barrier to learning.

3. Teach children to pay attention to signal words and phrases. They help you understand the relationship between the ideas within a paragraph(s).

Cause-and-effect words - as a result, therefore

Time words - meanwhile, before

Contrast words - in contrast, conversely

Addition words - also, in addition

Emphasis words - more important, remember

Test how well your students have listened ?

1. Teachers can find out how well their students have listened and comprehended by :

a. Asking children to compare and contrast their own experiences with an event in the story or passage

b. Asking students to give another title, or think of another ending to the story or passage being discussed.

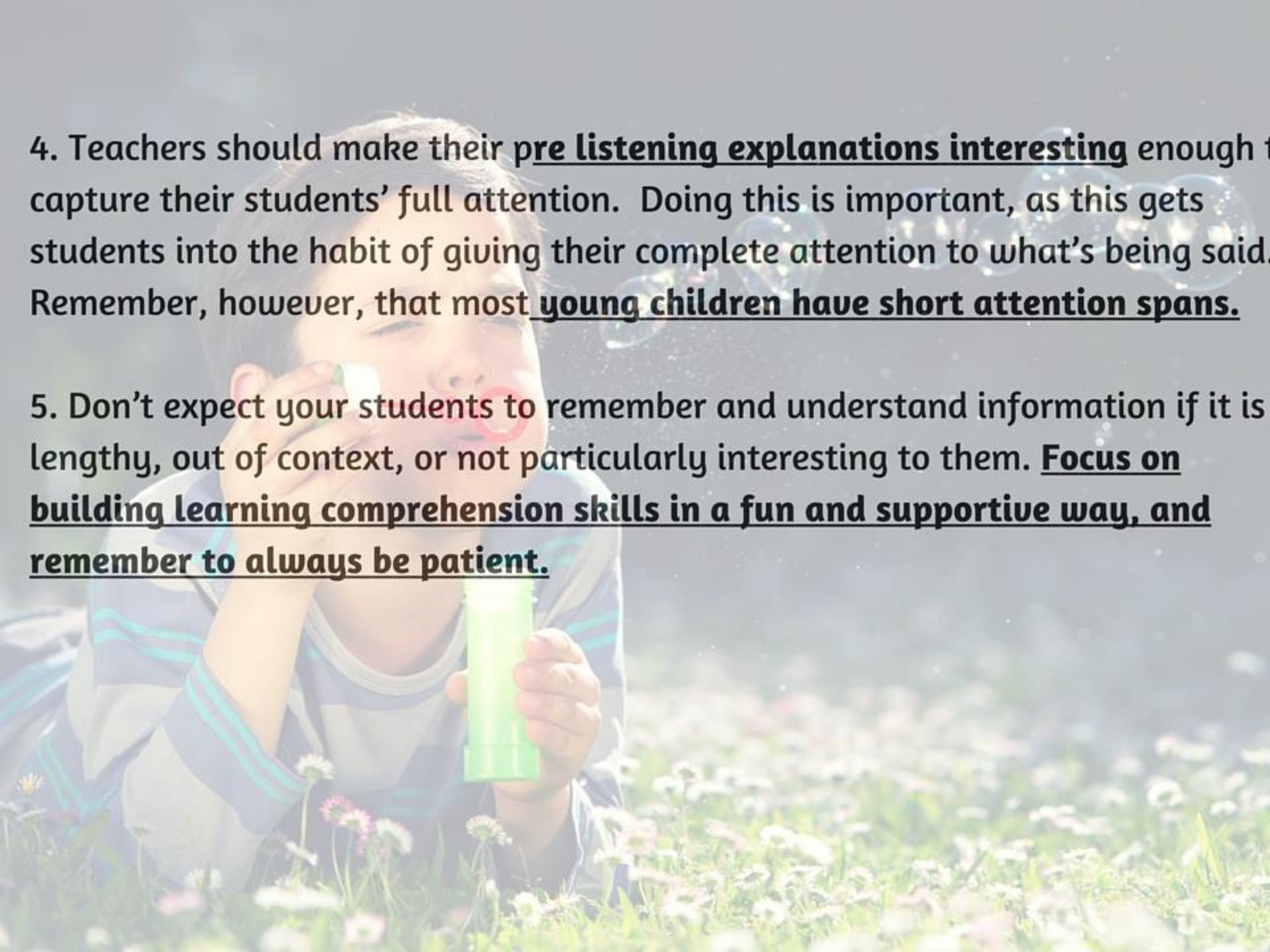
Letting students speak about how they would change the story or any character in the story.



Practice Listening

A wise old owl lived on an oak. The more it heard, the less it spoke.
The less it spoke, the more it heard. Why can't we all be like that
wise old bird?

1. **Remember that listening is thinking – predicting, checking, revising and retaining information in memory**, focusing attention, forming images, interpreting, comparing and evaluating.
2. **Listening is one of our most important skills**. We listen not only with our ears, but with our eyes, mind, body and heart.
3. **Children who are good listeners often grow up to become good communicators**. It's an important skill to develop at an early age and, like muscle in our body, it needs regular exercise to grow stronger.

A young child with dark hair is lying on their stomach in a field of daisies. They are holding a green bubble wand and blowing bubbles. The background is a soft-focus field of white and pink flowers under a bright sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

4. Teachers should make their pre listening explanations interesting enough to capture their students' full attention. Doing this is important, as this gets students into the habit of giving their complete attention to what's being said. Remember, however, that most young children have short attention spans.

5. Don't expect your students to remember and understand information if it is lengthy, out of context, or not particularly interesting to them. Focus on building learning comprehension skills in a fun and supportive way, and remember to always be patient.

Q & A

Feel free to ask Questions



Thank You

...And Don't Forget



THE BEST VIEW

comes after

THE HARDEST

climb