

Helping Your Child Become a Skilled Reader

For your child to become a skilled reader, there is more to it than just being able to read the words. Being able to read words on a page does not necessarily indicate that your child is comprehending the text. To further elaborate, take a look at a model entitled, "The Many Strands that are Woven into Skilled Reading" (Scarborough, 2001).

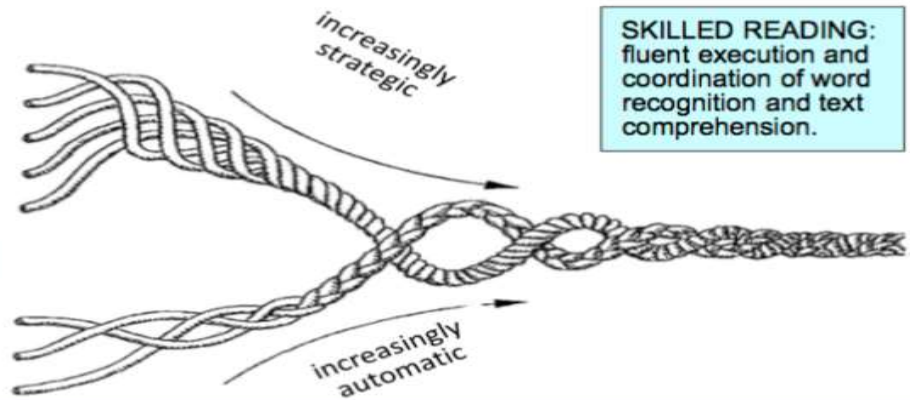
Scarborough's Reading Rope (2001)

LANGUAGE COMPREHENSION

- Background Knowledge
- Vocabulary Knowledge
- Language Structures
- Verbal Reasoning
- Literacy Knowledge

WORD RECOGNITION

- Phonological Awareness
- Decoding (and Spelling)
- Sight Recognition



Reading is a multifaceted skill, gradually acquired over years of instruction and practice.

This model compares skilled reading to a rope, which consists of many different threads that are essential for the rope (skilled reading) to come together.

The concepts under "Language Comprehension" become more strategic over time, as your child learns and practices using different aspects of background knowledge, vocabulary, language structures, verbal reasoning, and literacy knowledge. The concepts under "Word Recognition" become more automatic with practice. These threads combine to create a knowledge and strategy base which skilled readers use to read fluently.

Here is more information about the 'threads' of the rope: