



Familiar Reading

What is it?

When children are allowed to re-read familiar material, they are being allowed to learn to be readers, to read in ways which draw on all their language resources and knowledge of the world, to put this very complex recall and sequencing behavior into a fluent rendering of the text. The orchestration of these complex behaviors cannot be achieved on a hard book.

Clay, M. (1991). *Becoming Literate*. (p. 184). Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

Why should I do it?

Each time a child rereads a story, the child processes the text at a different level. With each reading, the child notices new features about text. Familiar reading enables the child to:

- Make meaningful predictions which can be checked against visual information.
- Practice effective strategies on easy material.
- Engage in fluent and expressive reading.
- Experience the joy of revisiting favorite stories.
- Become more knowledgeable about story structure and vocabulary.
- Promote independent reading and problem-solving activity.
- Problem-solve independently.