

Nursery Rhymes

Listening activities teach early learners about the structure of text and provide a framework for later reading comprehension. As students identify the key details of a picture and use language to describe those details, they develop stronger comprehension skills.

Teach or Review

As necessary, teach or review the concept that pictures have a main subject, as well as other important details. Using a sample picture, have students identify the subject and key details. Generate a sentence to describe the key details of the picture. As students identify the key details and use language (keywords) to describe key details, they develop comprehension and build recall.

Tell Me More

Before you read a picture book aloud, share certain pictures with students. Ask them to identify the main subject as well as important details for each picture. Then, after you read the book, look at the pictures again. Ask students to say a sentence, including keywords, about each picture that includes the main subject and relevant information from the story.

Make a Match

Hand out different pictures to each student. Ask students to take a few moments to look at their own pictures, and to think about the main subject and key details. Then, read a series of sentences aloud. When a student hears a sentence that matches his picture, he should give a thumbs-up. Have the student display the picture for the other students, and share the keywords for the picture.

Art Studio

Display a picture for students. Then, read a sentence with one inaccurate detail. Have students identify the difference, and create a new picture to match the sentence.

Pair Share

Give a pair of students the same keywords (e.g., horse, barn). Have them each draw a picture that includes images of those two words. Then, discuss how the students' pictures are likely different, even though they have the same keywords. It may be the details that differ. Have each student say a sentence that describes his or her picture.

Curriculum Connection

Show different images that relate to concepts students have encountered during the school year. Ask them to identify any keywords in the images, and then have them work together to generate complete sentences that include the keywords.