Six Ways to Improve Your Child’s Reading Comprehension at Home

* Read, Read, Read.  It is important for children to read every day at home. If you are a reader, then read alongside your child.  They love to do things with an adult.  Why not foster the love of reading!

* Read what your child reads.  It is difficult to know how well your children are reading if you are not familiar with their reading material.  This will allow you to go into discussion wtih your children about what they are reading.  Also, if your child has questions about what they are reading, you can answer them thoroughly and correctly- or help them answer the questions by themselves.

* Ask questions.  If you are reading what your child reads, you can engage your child in a thoughtful conversation about the material.  Go beyond questions and ask "Why do you think the main character acted the way he/she did?" "What do you think will happen in the next chapter and why?"

* Have your children write about what they read.  Cultivating a good writer is a vital part of cultivatin a good reader.  You shouldn't force your child to write formal essays about their recreational reading, but you can have them start a reading journal.  A few paragraphs about what they read can give them a chance to analyze what they have just read and increase reading comprehension.

* Encourage post-reading activities.  Post-reading activities can improve retention, jumpstart future learning, and be more fun for kids.  Urge your children to draw a picturem a story they've read.  Active reading will encourage critical thinking about the material without the child even realizing it.

* Connect reading material to prior knowledge.  The best readers don't jsut understand what they have read; they understand what they have read in a larger world context.  To help your child connect their reading material to the outside world, ask them how the book added to what they already knew about the topic or subject.  For a quick and simple start, ask your child to compare and contrast the book they are reading with the one they've read in the past.