

Welcome to our monthly Learning Newsletter where we seek to share some of the initiatives and strategies we use in school so you might best support your child in their education, in order to benefit your child and further enhance their educational experiences in the long term.

## Retrieval and Inference, skills children need to master when reading...

### What is 'retrieval' in reading?

Retrieval, in its broadest terms, is defined as 'the process of obtaining or extracting information or material' (Oxford Dictionary, 2019). When retrieving in reading, we are finding key details or information in the text and extracting them. Whenever we read, we retrieve. All reading depends on retrieval.

### What is 'inference' in reading?

Some stories give clues which help you to work out, or infer, what's really happening. For example, custard pies were stolen. The housekeeper looked nervous and her apron had a yellow stain. From this we can infer that the housekeeper stole the pies. It helps you to look beyond the obvious.

### How can I help my child to retrieve information and practice inference?

#### Guidance For Parents –

#### Retrieval

You can practice these skills by asking your child:

- What were the main points?
- What happened at the beginning, middle and end?
- What happened when the character...?
- What happened during this specific part? What details can you remember?
- What scene/part do you remember the most? Why?
- What were the names of the characters and what did they do?



**Encourage your child to make notes, in their own words, as they read or watch to help with retrieval and inference.**

### Practice retrieval and inference skills at home when reading, watching TV or during conversation...

#### Guidance For Parents –

#### Inference

You can practice these skills in the following way:

- Ask your child what they liked, disliked, and are puzzled by. Why?
- Discuss their ideas about the text or TV show, what has happened and what caused this?
- Encourage inference from illustrations and images e.g., what can you work out about this character from this picture?
- Encourage your child to read texts they enjoy out loud. Ask them questions about what they have read.
- Ask your child what they would do if they were in the same situation as the character.
- Ask your child what the writer or director wants them to think.

