

Diagnosis and Intervention Strategies

Watch for Problems

- Check in with students every day and identify those who are having trouble
- Review the TOPS Report and Diagnostic Report regularly

When to Intervene

- If a student can't answer your questions about the book he or she is reading
- If a student scores below 80% on a single Reading Practice Quiz
- If a student's average drops below 85%

How to Intervene

- Talk to the student and identify the cause and severity of the problem
- Decide together on a strategy to address the problem
- Help the student select the next book to read, keeping book level, length, and complexity of the content in mind
- Teach comprehension, vocabulary, fluency, or phonics skills as needed

Common Problems	Strategies to Try
Student is reading a book of fiction that's too hard or too long.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have student read with a partner to finish the book. • Help student select a shorter book to read next. • If that book is too hard, have the student practice at a lower book level.
Student is struggling with a nonfiction book.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach strategies for reading nonfiction, such as previewing, outlining, skimming, and summarizing. • Show the student how to review the book's main ideas before quizzing. • Help the student select a shorter or easier nonfiction book next.
Student can't follow a book's plot or concepts because he forgets what he has already read.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach a simple summarizing strategy, such as jotting a few sentences in a notebook after reading, and ask the student to use it every day. • Check in with the student every day and ask him to tell you briefly what's happening in the book.
Student has trouble taking quizzes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch the student take a few quizzes. Is she choosing answers quickly? Does she read all the choices? Does she click an answer by accident? • Teach quiz-taking strategies as needed. • Emphasize the importance of doing one's best on quizzes.
Student's average falls below 85% despite intervention and guidance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reevaluate the student's ZPD. Create a wider ZPD that better matches the student's abilities. • Work with the student individually to diagnose problems with basic reading skills. • Provide targeted instruction in comprehension, vocabulary, fluency, phonics, or phonemic awareness skills.