Teaching Vocabulary to Improve Reading Comprehension in the Early Grades

Evidence-based
- correlation between vocabulary and comprehension (NRP, 2000)
- direct, explicit instruction (Beck et al., 2013)
- active processing (Wright & Cervetti, 2016)

Strategies into Action

1. **Vocabulary Instruction**
   - choose unknown words

2. **Follow Up Activities**
   - identify concept in a picture, student demonstration

3. **Extend the Lesson**
   - drawing, writing, questioning

Graphic Organizers
- integrated literacy & content-area instruction leads to improved vocabulary & comprehension
- aids recall and transfer of information

Teacher Modeling

- **Mental Imagery**
  - modeling
  - descriptive text
  - oral presentation
  - student practice

- **Questioning Techniques**
  - prediction
  - clarification
  - question
  - summarization

Research has suggested a reciprocal relationship.

Vocabulary Knowledge ↔ Reading Comprehension

All students may benefit from vocabulary instruction, but it is necessary for early readers and students with language difficulties.

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