

SAMPLE ACTIVITY

COGENT - Cognitive Enhancement Training

The COGENT program is a constructivist student-centered approach that allows students to create their own meaning and make connections with limited scaffolding by the instructor. This allows the student to internalize the strategies needed for cognitive processing that improve reading comprehension and fluency. This particular sample activity requires students to listen to a story, then retell the story using non-verbal representations. The instructor then asks guided questions that seek to challenge students to use the skills that good readers utilize with ease, ie. making predictions or inferences. Students then transfer their skills by using any four pictures to create their own story to tell the group. Instructors follow up by asking prediction/inference questions regarding these stories.

3.3 - Short Story Comprehension [Difficulty Level 3]

Materials: 3.3 Story 1, &2 Pictures (from Appendix)

Student Outcome: Students will demonstrate understanding of stories and answer inference/prediction questions about the stories.

ACTIVITY #1 - Complete as a whole group activity

You will need: 3.3 Story 1 pictures (jail door, ambulance, dog, man). Make copies as necessary.

Procedure:

1. Determine if students will work individually or in pairs and copy the necessary number of Story 1 pictures.
2. Have students cut out the 4 pictures if they are able to manage scissors or have the pictures pre-cut prior to the activity.
3. Make sure the children know what each picture represents.
4. Say:
 - I'm going to tell you a little story that goes with these pictures.
 - When I'm finished I want you to show me the story I told with the pictures
 - "One day a dog bit a man. The man had to go to the hospital and the dog was sent to jail."

5. Watch to see that students show the dog biting the man and that the man is then put with the ambulance and the dog is put with jail door.
6. Ask questions such as:
 - Why is the dog in jail?
 - Why is the man in the hospital?
 - Why do you think the dog bit the man?
 - What will happen to the dog now?
 - What would happen if the man bit the dog?

Include other questions that you think appropriate.

ACTIVITY #2 - Complete as a whole group activity

You will need: 3.3 Story 2 pictures (man walking, banana, woman, money). Make copies as necessary.

Procedure:

1. Again, determine if the students will work individually or in pairs and copy the necessary number of Story 2 pictures.
2. Have students cut out the pictures if they are able to manage scissors or have the pictures pre-cut prior to the activity.
3. Make sure the children know what each picture represents.
4. Say:
 - Now, I'm going to tell you a story that goes with these pictures.
 - Just like the last story, when I'm finished I want you to show me the story I told with the pictures.
 - "A man was walking down the street. He slipped on a banana and fell down. A lady came to help him up. The man gave her five dollars."
5. Watch to see that students show the correct actions.
6. Ask questions such as:
 - Why did the lady help the man?
 - Why do you think the man gave the lady five dollars?
 - What will the man do now?
 - How did the banana get there?

Include other questions that you think appropriate.