

Key Words Routine

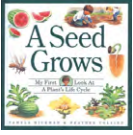

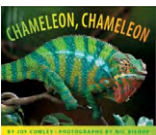



USING VISUALS AND TASK ANALYSES WITH NONFICTION TEXT FOR AUTISTIC STUDENTS: KEY WORDS ROUTINE

<p>The Key Words Routine is a comprehension strategy that can help autistic children find the main idea of the nonfiction texts they are reading. Finding the main idea is an evidence-based strategy that improves reading comprehension.</p>	1. Question	Turn the title into a question
	2. Read	Read a short section
	3. Underline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Underline the key words » Repeated words » Words in a list » Words that go together
	4. Link key words to question	How do the key words answer the question?
	5. Main idea	Write or choose the main idea

TIPS FOR PARENTS OF AUTISTIC CHILDREN:

- It is okay to read the text aloud to your child, especially if the text you are using is above their reading level. Practicing listening comprehension can improve reading comprehension.
- Instead of highlighting key words, have your child raise their hand or make a sound each time they hear the key word. You may have to identify the key words for them first, but eventually children should find the key words themselves.
- Starting with “repeated key words” is usually easier than finding “key words in a list” or “words that go together.” Practice finding repeated key words first before looking for the other types of key words.
- Use an article or nonfiction book that has pictures. The pictures can help children identify the key words.
- Use this strategy with homework. Homework can be a particularly stressful time for families of autistic children. Try this strategy while children are reading their social studies or science textbooks. This is a great way to check to see if your child is comprehending what they’re reading.

NONFICTION BOOK SUGGESTIONS FOR THE KEY WORDS ROUTINE

	Title/Author
	A Seed Grows: My First Look at a Plant's Life Cycle Pamela Hickman
	Astronauts Today Rosanna Hansen
	Chameleon, Chameleon Nic Bishop
	How Big Were the Dinosaurs Bernard Most
	Skyscraper: From the Ground Up Susan Goodman
	The Summer Olympics Bob Knotts

TIPS FOR FINDING ADDITIONAL BOOKS TO PRACTICE THE KEY WORDS ROUTINE

- Use Reading Rocket's **Book Finder** to search specifically for nonfiction texts. readingrockets.org/bookfinder
- Subscribe to **Reading A-Z** (or do their free trial) to download books your child can read online. Use the filters to choose nonfiction books on your child's reading level. readinga-z.com
- Use the **Epic** website/app to download free and purchased e-books. Search by reading level and child interests. Filter for nonfiction. getepic.com

HOW TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE KEY WORDS ROUTINE AND NONFICTION TEXT COMPREHENSION:

- TRIAD Instructional Routines Learning Module: register for a free account at triad.vkclearning.org, then see bit.ly/3V65Kc9.
- Reading Rockets Strategy Page: readingrockets.org/pdfs/edextras/47164-en.pdf