#### **Key Words Routine**

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

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.

1. Question	Turn the title into a question
2. <b>Read</b>	Read a short section
3. Underline	<ul> <li>» Underline the key words</li> <li>» Repeated words</li> <li>» Words in a list</li> <li>» Words that go together</li> </ul>
4. Link key words to question	How do the key words answer the question?
5. <b>Main idea</b>	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 <a href="mailto:triad.vkclearning.org">triad.vkclearning.org</a>, then see <a href="mailto:bit.ly/3V65Kc9">bit.ly/3V65Kc9</a>.
- □ Reading Rockets Strategy Page: readingrockets.org/pdfs/edextras/47164en.pdf