



# Parent Pipeline



## CAFE Strategy: Cross Checking

When reading a book for pleasure or for information, chances are you will come to a word or two you are unsure of. You probably will use the accuracy strategy of **cross checking** without even thinking about it, because it is second nature to you as a reader to read accurately. Accuracy is not second nature to children learning to read. It is something that needs to be taught using a variety of strategies.

Your child has been introduced to the accuracy strategy of **cross checking**. It is important to slow readers down when they come to a word they don't know and teach them to apply the strategy of **cross checking** so they are able to fix the meaning and not just skip the word. **Cross checking** requires a person to constantly think and monitor meaning. It is a strategy for ensuring the words and pictures read make sense and match the letters on a page.

### How can you help your child with this strategy at home?

1. Listen to your child read. When he comes to a word he is unsure of, remind him to cross check. Ask:
  - Does the word you are reading match the picture or letters written?  
(they cross their right arm over their body)
  - Does it sound right?  
(their left arm crosses over their body making an X)
  - Does it make sense?  
(both arms come down with hands pointing to the ground)

***\*Doing physical movements with each question helps children to remember the questions.***

2. If your child is having difficulty with this strategy at home, break down the process:
  - Have her stop reading when meaning breaks down.
  - Tell her to look at the letters and say the sounds or look for word chunks in words.
  - Remind her to use the pictures to help.
3. To make your child aware of using this strategy, give him a piece of paper and tell him to make a tally mark each time he uses the **cross checking** strategy.

**Thank you for your continued support at home!**

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Ideas and strategies are taken from : The CAFE Book, written by Gail Boushey & Joan Moser