# PREDICT-SAMPLE-CONFIRM

As children read, they continually use the Predict-Sample-Confirm cycle (Weaver, 1994). When children come to a word they don't know, they make a prediction about the word. While making the prediction, they sample possible words based on the letters of the word, the meaning needed in the sentence, and the type of word that fits the structure of the sentence. From the sampling, children narrow their prediction to a few words. Then children decide which word to try to confirm that prediction, or they change the word. The process of Predict-Sample-Confirm is simultaneous and ongoing. Because this strategy is a key component of reading, it should be explicitly taught to children as in the following example.

## DIRECTIONS

1. Tell children that you will be modeling an important strategy that they will be using as they read. Choose a story from a Big Book or a story that children can read and place it on the chalkboard or on chart paper. Cover several of the important words with tape or with sticky notes. A one-sentence example follows.

    *When we went to the apple, we saw four types of apple trees.*

2. Begin reading the story. When you come to a word that is covered, tell children that you will be making a prediction about the word. Write the word *prediction* on the chalkboard or on chart paper. Ask children for predictions for the covered word. Under the word *prediction,* write the words the children suggested. Explain that when you come to a word you don't know, you make many predictions about what the word could be.

    ### Predictions

    farm
    orchard
    place
    pie
    yard

3. Tell children that you will choose one of the predicted words to place in the sentence. Choose a word that is not the correct word for the sentence. For example, using the word *farm,* read the sentence to the children.

When we went to the apple *farm,* we saw four types of apple trees.

4. Tell children that this word may make sense, but you need to confirm its accuracy by checking the letters of the word. Uncover the first letter in the word *orchard.* Ask children if *farm* could be the correct word and invite a child to explain. Then ask children which word they think fits the sentence based on the first letter. Most children will say the correct word, *orchard.* Explain that if the word didn't fit, you would have to continue predicting more words, sampling the words, and confirming their accuracy.

5. Repeat with additional covered words. Then encourage children to try the Predict-Sample-Confirm strategy while reading independently.

*Strategic Reading,* p. 387