



Maze (Reading Comprehension)

Understanding what a story or passage means | 2nd grade

San Diego Unified uses mCLASS DIBELS 8 to monitor your child's growing reading skills throughout the year. Use this quick guide to understand the 2nd grade Maze (Reading Comprehension) subtest and discover simple, game-like ways to practice together at home.

What we're working on

This subtest checks understanding, not just reading out loud. Your child reads a short passage silently and picks the word that best completes each sentence, which shows whether they're following the meaning, not just saying words correctly. Doing well here depends on more than reading skill alone; vocabulary and knowledge about the world both play a big role in understanding what's being read.

Skills this builds on

Reading smoothly Enough reading speed and accuracy to hold onto meaning across sentences.	Vocabulary Knowing the meaning of everyday and school-related words.
Knowing about the world General knowledge that helps make sense of new topics.	Understanding sentences Following the meaning of individual sentences, not just the words.

Fun ways to practice at home - 5-10 minutes, a few times a week

Talk before you read 3-5 min	Before starting a new book, chat about the topic or look at the pictures together so your child has some idea what to expect.
Build background knowledge 5 min	Watch a short video or look at a few pictures about a new topic before reading a book about it; familiarity makes comprehension easier.
Fill in the blank 8-10 min	Cover a word in a sentence and ask your child to guess what word makes sense there, then reveal it and talk about why it fits.
Retell it back 5 min	After reading, ask your child to tell you in their own words what happened; who was in the story and what was the most important part.

What to look for

- * A child can read words accurately and still find this tricky if vocabulary or background knowledge is still growing - that's normal, not a decoding problem.
- * Talking about books together, even casually, builds the exact skills this measures.
- * If your child reads smoothly, but consistently can't tell you what a story was about, mention it to the teacher.

A special reminder for families:

- Focus **on understanding**. Pause while reading together and ask, "What's happening?" or "Why do you think that happened?" Give your child time to think and share.
- Use **the language your family knows best**. Talking about books, sharing stories, and exploring new topics together helps build vocabulary and understanding.
- Keep it **positive and stay connected**. Celebrate your child's ideas and effort. If understanding what they read is often difficult, ask their teacher how you can support them at home.