Abstract

A substantial minority of children have problems with text comprehension, even though their word recognition is within the normal range. Research has shown that skilled and less-skilled comprehenders differ in a number of ways, and in the first part of this presentation I will discuss the relative contribution of several theoretically relevant skills and abilities to the prediction of reading comprehension (as opposed to single word reading) during the early years of schooling (age 7 to 11). In the second part of the talk, I will consider some open questions and possible future directions for this research, with a particular focus on the relations between vocabulary skills and inference making. In the final part of the talk, I will consider the implications of the findings for interventions to improve reading comprehension skills, and will consider some ways in which these might be implemented in practice.