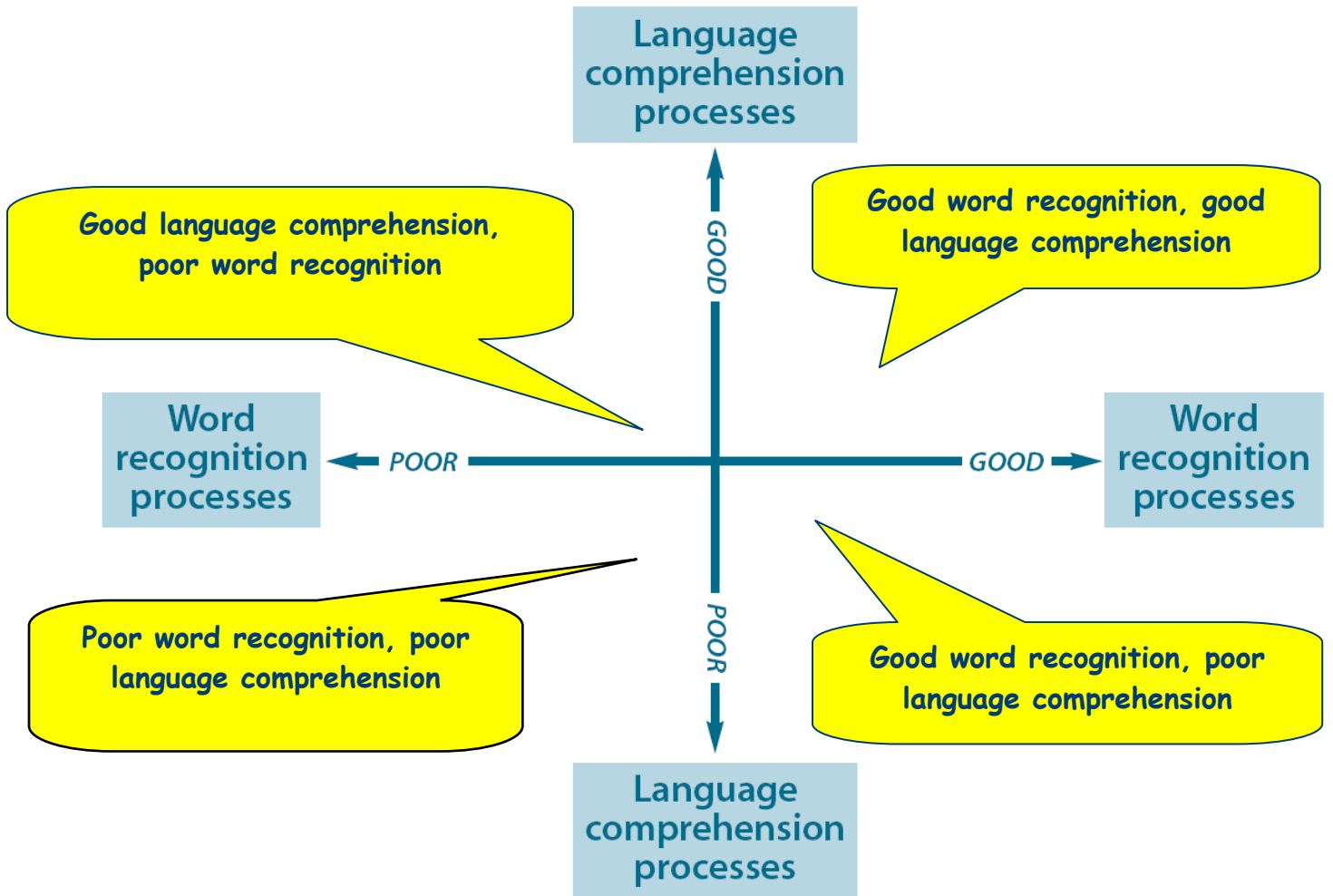


What is the 'simple view of reading'?



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Information for parents and carers

The '*simple view of reading*' proposes that skilled reading entails:

- development of a set of processes by which the words on the page are recognised and understood (i.e. word recognition processes), and
- development of increasingly sophisticated language comprehension processes, by which texts as well as spoken language are understood and interpreted.

Learning to read therefore involves:

- setting up processes by which the words on the page can be recognised and understood, and
- continuing to develop the language comprehension processes that underlie both spoken and written language comprehension.

Both sets of processes are necessary for reading, but neither is sufficient on its own. Children who cannot adequately recognise the words on the page are by that fact alone prevented from fully understanding the text; however, recognising and understanding the words on the page is no guarantee that the text will be understood.

Different kinds of teaching are needed to develop word recognition skills from those that are needed to foster the comprehension of written and spoken language.