

LEARNING TO READ?



START HERE!

ADULTS! HERE'S YOUR NO-STRESS INTRO TO EASY READERS

Learning to read is hard, and everyone learns with their own speed and style. But trying to figure out how to find the perfect materials to fit your child's learning needs can be stressful, too! Get started confidently with this no-frills guide to books for new readers. You got this!

What are easy readers?

These are **books designed to help kids learn to read**. Features include larger font sizes, plenty of space between lines, and easy-to-read words.

Where do I start?

We've put some quick picks in order of difficulty in **bins on top of this shelf**.

Use the labels to see which one works for your child, then flip through a few!

So we only read these now?

No way! Think of these as just one part of a complete (reading) diet. Read alouds, picturebooks, and audiobooks also help your child build reading skills!

Is it okay to reread?

Yes! It may feel tedious sometimes, but reading books again builds familiarity, confidence, and fluency.



LET'S TALK LEVELING.

What is a reading level?

In a nutshell, **a scale developed to quantify how difficult a book is.** Typically they consider features such as word complexity, text length, and the structure of the book. There's so much to consider, leveling a book is more art than science.

Reader beware:

Publishers do not have the same leveling criteria. This means that a book marked "level 1" may read differently than another level 1 book.

What level is my child?

Sometimes school will assess your child and give you a letter or number that corresponds to their reading level.

If you don't have that (and even if you do), it's useful to know your child's particular strength and growth areas while reading.

Is it okay if my child reads above/below their reading level?

Absolutely! Reading easier books builds confidence and fluency. And children can often read more challenging books if they are interested in the topic!

But I really need a book at (this) level!

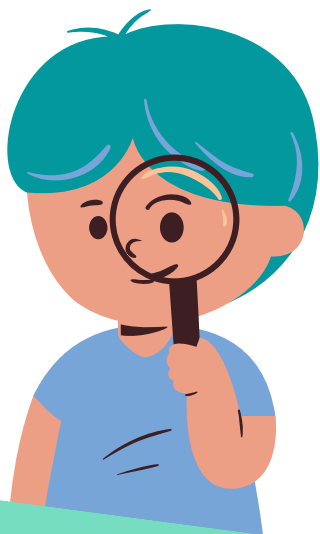
Just **ask a librarian!**

There are also plenty of lists easily found online and on publisher websites.

You have the freedom to choose whatever book you like, as long as reading time is fun and productive!



HOW TO FIND THE PERFECT BOOK



1

**What's
interesting?**

Ask yourself which
characters, stories,
or topics you enjoy.

2

**Browse
around**

What pops out?
What do you like?

3

**Read a
passage**

Does it sound
interesting?

5

**Still not
finding what
you like?**

Ask a librarian for a
recommendation!

4

Difficulty

Is it too hard,
too easy, or
just right?

**Try the 5-
finger rule!**



0-1. Very easy reading

2. Easy reading

3. Just right!

4-5.
Difficult

FIVE FINGER RULE

Read any one page of a book. Every time you see a word you don't know yet, put up a finger. At the end of the page, the number of fingers can help you figure out how tricky a book will be to read!

HELPING A NEW READER

Read 20 minutes a day

Carve out time every day to practice! As your child's brain makes new connections, you'll see their reading improve.

Helping someone learn how to read? Follow these handy tips for a fun and productive experience.

Sound it out

Stuck on a word? Encourage your child to slow down and decode it. If a tricky word can't be sounded out, it's okay to give them the word.

Party!

Learning to read is full of little wins! Let your child know how proud you are. When reading time is fun and exciting, it improves motivation.

Read it again

Reading a book again improves confidence and comprehension. It also lets kids take another crack at decoding words!

talk, talk, talk.

After reading, take a moment to talk about the book. This aids comprehension.

On point!

As you read together, model following words with your finger from right to left. Your reader will do the same!

Practice patience.

Learning to read is slow work. Try to avoid jumping in too quickly as your reader sounds out words.



WE'RE WORKING ON...

DECODING

(BEGINNER)



Decodable books are written to help new readers by only including the phonemes and patterns they have already learned. Grownups may find these books repetitive, but they are a great way to practice the nuts and bolts of reading!

Like fruits or vegetables, decodable books are one part of a growing reader's book "diet." So keep reading those favorite stories and other topics you love!



Get the
booklist!

CVC words

These words are made up of the following pattern:

Consonant + vowel + consonant.

For example, **mom** or **cat**.

Short vowel sounds

When vowels do not sound like their letter name, this is a short vowel sound. For example, **cat**, **fell**, **pin**, **pot**, and **fun**.



WE'RE WORKING ON...

DECODING

(INTERMEDIATE)



Decodable books are written to help new readers by only including the phonemes and patterns they have already learned. Grownups may find these books repetitive, but they are a great way to practice the nuts and bolts of reading!

Beginner decodable books focus on CVC (consonant/vowel/consonant) words and short vowel sounds. This list not only continues to work on those skills, but brings in new challenges.



Get the
booklist!

Long vowel sounds

When vowels sound like their letter name, this is a long vowel sound. For example, **cake**, **feel**, **bike**, **home**, and **cute**.

Silent "e" patterns

Adding the letter "e" to the end of a word is tricky because it means a long vowel sound is needed. For example, **cub** becomes **cube**.

First vowel blends

When two vowels get together, readers will learn to expect changing sounds! For example, **bot** becomes **boat**.



WE'RE WORKING ON...

DECODING

(READY TO READ!)



Decodable books are written to help new readers by only including the phonemes and patterns they have already learned. Grownups may find these books repetitive, but they are a great way to practice the nuts and bolts of reading!

The intermediate list of decodable books focused on silent e, long vowel sounds, and first vowel blends. This level not only continues to work on those skills, but brings in new challenges.



Get the
booklist!

Vowel teams

Readers continue to work on vowel blends in this level, and add trickier pairings. For example, **trail**, **leaf**, **juice**.

R-controlled vowels

A vowel sound often changes when it is followed by the letter **r**. Listen to how the sound changes in this list: **cat**, **cap**, **can**, **car**.

Consonant+le sounds

Adding **le** to the end of a word adds an **l** sound and changes how the vowel is pronounced. For example, **tab** becomes **table**.



WE'RE WORKING ON...

FLUENCY

Reader bins in order of difficulty to help you pick the right book!



Read together

Listen to your child read and help them when needed. Or, try taking turns reading pages.

Fluent readers recognize and understand words at the same time. They can read aloud smoothly and with expression, pick up new ideas, and compare them to existing background knowledge. Becoming a fluent reader takes a lot of time and practice!

Reread favorites

Rereading favorite books builds a reader's confidence, expression, and speed.

Try Audiobooks!

Audiobooks help us get familiar with the sound and expression of language. Check out our selection of **talking books!** Or, let your child record themselves while reading and listen to the audio. **DIY audiobooks** make a great motivator and gift!

Listen to
fluent
readers!



Kindergarten



1st Grade



2nd Grade



3rd Grade

WE'RE WORKING ON...

COMPREHENSION

Read together

Read together and talk about what's happening in the story. You may want to pause and go back to certain passages.

Reading comprehension simply means whether you understand what you've just read. Kids who struggle with comprehension may have difficulty understanding what happened in a story and why.

Active Reading

Active reading is a great way to improve comprehension. Check out this video to learn more and see it in action!



Get the
booklist!



You can practice comprehension with any book, but this list includes books with prewritten discussion questions or a helpful format for taking turns reading.



WE'RE WORKING ON...

GRAPHIC NOVELS

A **graphic novel** is structured like a comic book. Exciting images are paired with short bits of text and dialogue. Graphic novels are about so much more than super heroes!

Why graphic novels?

Reading motivation: A huge strength of graphic novels is that they are popular, fun, and engaging!

Word learning: Visuals near words clue readers into their meaning and support existing knowledge.

Story structure: Easy-to-follow plots help children learn how narratives are structured.

Visual literacy: We take in lots of visual information outside of words and language. Graphic novels help kids develop this visual language.



*Get the
booklist!*



Are they "real books"?

Yes! Professionals agree that graphic novels offer high-quality stories and age-appropriate reading for kids.

SCORE AN A+ WITH THESE SCHOOL STORIES



READ TOGETHER

Great stories to
share at any age!



BEGINNING READERS

Starting to read on
your own? Try this
list of easy fiction
and nonfiction.



TRANSITION TO CHAPTER BOOKS

These easier chapter
books make a great
bridge from readers
to chapter books.
They are also great
read-alouds!

