

## Choosing “Just Right” books for your child



Choosing just the right book for your child can be difficult. If the book is too difficult, your child will have a hard time finding the motivation and interest in reading the book. He or she may refuse to read or fidget while reading. If the book is too easy, your child will not be challenged enough. Here are some tips to find “just right” books for your child.

First start off with your child’s interests: There are many kinds (genres) of books to read. What kinds of books does your child like to listen to and read?

Adventure	Biography	Autobiography	Classics
Comedy and Humor	Comic Books	Graphic Novels	How-To
Diaries and Journals	Realistic Fiction	Drama	Folk Tales
Fiction	Nonfiction	Historical Fiction	Mystery
Poetry and Rhymes	Short Stories	Science Fiction	Fantasy

Books can be read together (guided reading) or independently. You should help your child choose books that are slightly easier for independent reading. Your child should be able to read 98% of the words in the book all by themselves. With guided reading, you can select books that may be slightly higher than your child’s reading level, because you will be there to help with difficult words and to help with comprehension. At a guided reading level your child should be able to read 95% of the words. A book will be at your child’s “frustration level” if they have trouble reading most of the words.

Know your child's reading level: Knowledge of your students' general reading level and behavior will help you better guide their choices. A child at the beginning of the second grade is generally at a 1.8 to 2.2 and by the end of second grade is generally between a 2.5- 2.8. You can ask your child's teacher for the reading level.

You can check out the reading levels of a book or find lists of leveled books on Scholastic.com

"Teacher book Wizard" <http://bookwizard.scholastic.com/tbw/homePage.do>

Book level does not always tell everything about a book. Other features you might look for in readability are: sentence structure, word count, patterned language, predictability, strong picture support, high frequency words, overall text length, the number of words on each page, and the font size. There are some picture books that appear to be easy but really have very difficult reading levels!

And don't forget about the importance of rereading a story. The National Reading Panel (2000) states that repeated reading is one of the best ways to develop sight vocabulary, reading fluency, and reading comprehension. Research has stated that children who read the same book three times had better reading accuracy and better reading rates. Even if your child is reading independently, continue to have read aloud experiences as well. Read alouds can expose your child to concepts, sentence structure, and vocabulary much higher than his/ her own reading level. As you model reading out loud, your child is processing so many important ideas about language!