

Parent Connection

Tip

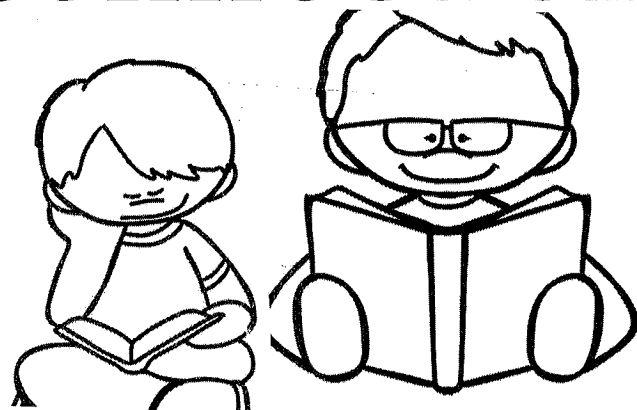
Choosing Books at the Correct Reading Level

Do you ever wonder if the book your child is reading is too hard? Here are some ways to find out:

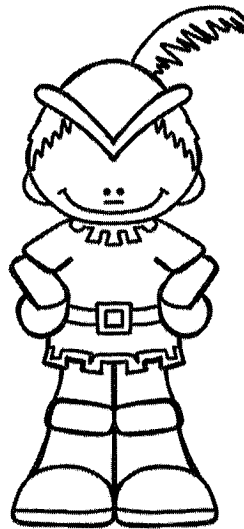
- Does your child struggle frequently while reading?
- Do you hear frequent excuses for avoiding reading?

Try the Finger Test.

Ask your child to read aloud approximately 50 to 75 words from a book. Every time your child misses a word hold up a finger. If more than five fingers are up at the end of the passage, it may be too hard for your child to read fluently and meaningfully. You don't have to forget about the challenging book if it is one your child enjoys. This can be a book you read to your child.



Free Online Resources



Here is a collection of six websites where children can hear and read books. You'll find everything from picture books, chapter books, and magazines.

<http://www.bookunitteacher.com/parent/2.htm>

Tip

Asking your child to give you a play-by-play is an effective way to improve vocabulary. It also helps your child practice with skills needed to become a good reader such as summarizing and sequencing events.

Focusing on one event makes this a manageable activity. After your child has been to a party, sports event, seen a movie, or played a game is a great time to give this a try.

Be sure to . . .

- Ask questions to guide your child through the sequence of events.
- Repeat portions of what your child says using new and interesting words.
- Praise when your child for explaining the situation well or using fascinating words.

Activity to Try

Play "I'm Thinking of an Object." This game may be played while driving in a car, eating breakfast, or just about any time you have a few moments.

The questioner may ask up to 10 questions to figure out the object. The questions must be answered with "yes" or "no."

Examples

- Is it alive?
- Can you find it in a house?
- Is it bigger than a car?

If the questioner can guess the object in 10 questions or less, s/he receives a point. Once the 10 questions are asked, repeat the game with the other player thinking of an object.

This activity is great for building vocabulary.