

Growing our Readers

Parent Newsletter

Volume 1

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Families,

You and your child's teacher have a powerful goal in common – teaching your child to **read**! We want to make sure our students have the best possible instruction so they can all become readers. We would like you to partner with us in this journey – a journey that is based on the effective practices that can be used at school and at home.

Each quarter you can look forward to a new volume of our reading newsletter focusing on a different literacy topic. The newsletters will include links to free resources and activities that you can use at home with your child.

Happy Reading!

Our Topic:

Finding the RIGHT book for your child

Finding the right book for your child means finding something your child wants to read AND making sure it's at the right level for your child. Making sure a book is at a good reading level for your child can be a challenge. Parents often seek a “just right” book: not too hard, but not too easy.

Here are a few tips on how to find that just right book:

1. Try to introduce your child to books that stretch their reading skills that will help them grow as readers. You can offer support by helping your child sound out tricky words and talking about words they may not know yet. Ask questions about the story or text to help your child build their reading comprehension muscles.



2. Some kids have favorite genres — they love mysteries or detective stories or books about sports or ancient Egypt, for example. It's okay if your child gravitates to those favorites. You can also suggest other genres and topics to help expand your child's reading diet.

3. Encourage your child to read two or three pages of the book and then ask themselves these questions:

Will it be an easy book to read?

Do I know most of the words?

When I read the pages aloud, does it sound smooth?

Do I understand what I am reading?

If your child answers “yes” to more than one, this will be an easy book for your child to read independently.





Will this book be too hard?

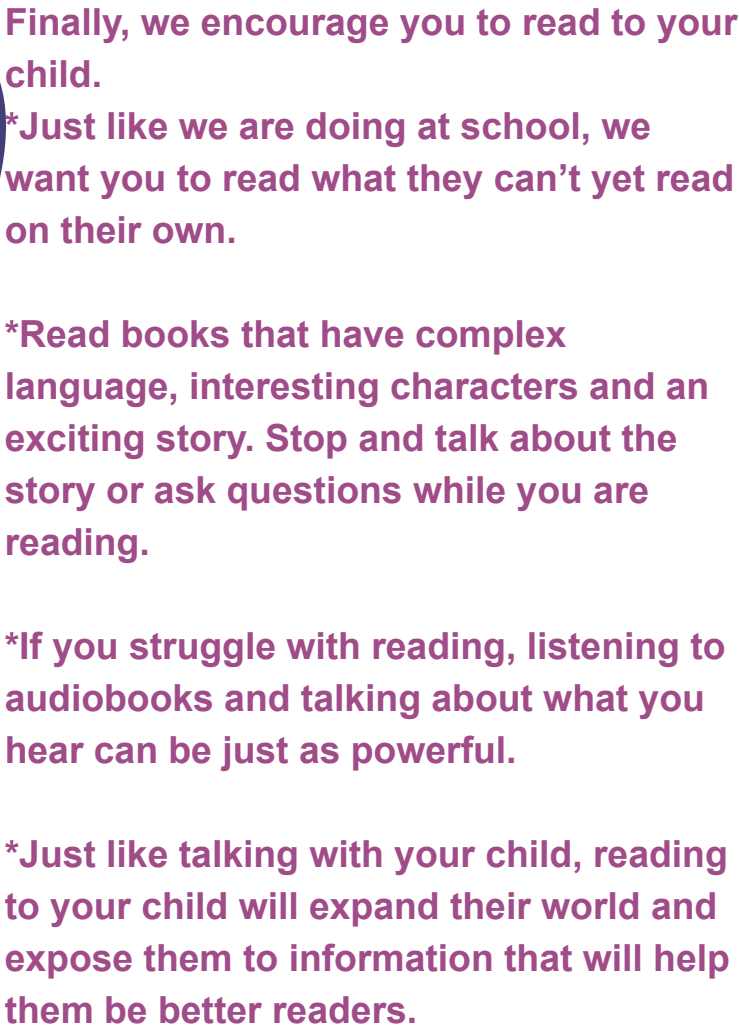
Are there many words on a page that I don't know?

When I read it aloud, does it sound choppy and slow?

Is this book hard to understand by myself?

If your child answers “yes” to more than one, this book could be challenging to read independently. It can still be a great choice — you or an older sibling in your family can read it together with your growing reader.

Finding the right book may involve a little bit of extra work, but it's worth it in the end.



Finally, we encourage you to read to your child.

- *Just like we are doing at school, we want you to read what they can't yet read on their own.
- *Read books that have complex language, interesting characters and an exciting story. Stop and talk about the story or ask questions while you are reading.
- *If you struggle with reading, listening to audiobooks and talking about what you hear can be just as powerful.
- *Just like talking with your child, reading to your child will expand their world and expose them to information that will help them be better readers.

Resources:

Check out these decodable readers!

[Kindergarten & First Grade](#)

[Kindergarten- Third Grade](#)

[Reading Rockets Book Finder](#)

Choose a book by title, author, genre, or interest

[Questions to ask your child while reading](#)

