

How to Select a “Just Right” Book: The 5 Finger Rule

The 5 finger rule applies to readers of all ages.

For independent reading . . .

1. Open the book to the middle. Select a full page of text.
2. Read the page (aloud is best).
3. Put one finger up for every word you can not pronounce or do not know.
4. If you get five fingers up on one page, the book is too difficult to read independently.
5. If you do not get any fingers up, but are reading very slowly and decoding almost every word, you will not enjoy the book.
6. If you get 0-4 fingers up, the book is just right for you.



*Parents. . .

If you are listening to your child read, and providing help—that could be considered an instructional level—and you do not need to adhere fully to the rule above in selecting reading material.

Also, in stories designed for beginning readers, the child may need to sound out every word, but once he gets through the short page, ask him to reread the page; the second or third reading should be fluent and will provide the necessary practice all beginning readers need.

Good Luck and Happy Reading!

Nothing will show your child you care about his learning more than taking the time to listen to him or her read.

. . . It's just another way for us to say, "I love you."