

# Family Guide to Reading



## *Scholastic Book Fairs*

**Scholastic Book Fairs** is committed to supporting family literacy. This guide was created to help your family learn about the various stages of reading and how to make reading a habit at home.

The Scholastic Book Fair offers a small, personal environment for your family to select books together. Every book at the Fair has been reviewed and approved by our reading specialists in order to support your child's lifelong reading journey.

Happy reading!



Helping children become lifelong learners.

**At this age...** Young children have active minds to observe and practice using letters and numbers, hear sounds in words, and notice details about print.



*Did  
you  
know?*

Letter knowledge is a strong predictor of reading success. Children should be able to easily identify 10 letters of the alphabet, and should be exposed to all 26, before entering kindergarten. Being able to hear sounds within words (such as beginning sounds or parts of words that rhyme) is another important skill.



*Book  
Tip*

Choose books with simple concepts like numbers, shapes or colours, as well as books that invite children to participate. Point out details about books, such as titles and authors' names. Books about animals or children are often favourites at this age.

A b E  
c d f g h i j



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**At this age...** Children are learning to read, so they need to know all of their letters and multiple sounds. These important skills must be practiced and well-honed into second grade.



*Did  
you  
know?*

Reading does not come naturally! It is a practiced skill that has to be developed. Research suggests that children need to be exposed to words between 6 and 60 times before they can memorize and read them fluently. Reading fluency is when a child reads without stopping to sound out words. He has the flow of reading.

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*Book  
Tip*

To help beginning readers LOVE reading, allow them to choose books that interest them. It is important that children have positive experiences with books and reading, and they must have age-appropriate books that are not too hard and not too easy, so that they can be successful at it.

## *Ages and Stages of Reading*

Reading is a complicated task that relies on many skills that work together. These skills develop over a long period of time, starting in infancy. While new skills are added, earlier skills expand and improve. Parents help children become successful readers by talking, listening, and reading with their children.

**Ages 9–12:**

## READING TO LEARN

**At this age...** Children need to be reading regularly in school and at home. They need ongoing encouragement, surrounded by a book-rich environment. Parents should encourage children to build **COMPREHENSION** and **VOCABULARY** by exposing them to a variety of book genres and subject areas such as science fiction, mystery, and nonfiction.

*Children should be surrounded by a book-rich environment at home.*



*Did you know?*

One of the factors contributing to poor reading skills is a lack of variety in books and reading materials. It is essential that books spark a child's interest so that they commit the time and effort to become better readers.



*Book Tip*

Choose books on topics that will grab your child's attention such as: sports, hobbies or even pop culture.



# Let Your Child Choose!

Here are four fantastic ways to find that perfect book with your child:

- 1. Let the interests of your child guide their book choices.** Does she like animals? Is he interested in dragons? At the Book Fair, both fiction and nonfiction selections are available.

*It's like a bookstore,  
but better!*



- 2. Suggest some of your favourite books to your child.** She will love to read a book that her parent enjoyed!
- 3. Browse and discover.** Read a few sentences together and see if the story is engaging and if the reading level is appropriate. If your child is excited to read more, the book is a good fit.
- 4. Take the "5-Finger Test."** Open up a book to any page. Ask your child to put his fingers down on the book and read the five words where his fingers land on the page. If your child has difficulty reading these five random words, the reading level of the book may be too difficult.



# Make Reading a Habit at Home

Research shows that children who read books for just 20 minutes a day perform better in school. Here are some great ways to get your child reading!

- 1. Set aside a reading time** that is good for everyone.
- 2. Pick a comfortable reading place** in your home.
- 3. Read together** either by taking turns or having one person read.
- 4. Involve listeners** by asking them questions about the story or what they think will happen next. Engage them with varied and exciting voices.
- 5. Fill your home with reading materials** such as magazines, newspapers, cookbooks and books.
- 6. Get caught reading yourself** and your child will be inspired to read as well.
- 7. Have older siblings read** to younger siblings to gain confidence.
- 8. Start seasonal traditions.** Read a favourite book every year at holidays and when they go back to school.
- 9. Keep favourite books around.**  
New readers will build confidence and fluency when re-reading a treasured book.



*"Introduce your children to magic –  
read to them every day!"*

*–Robert Munsch  
Honorary Chair, Family Literacy Day*



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