

**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.