

Reading milestones

Keep your kid on track with their reading development with these tips

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After one year at school...

they will understand the stories they read, use many words that they already know, and will be able to check that their reading sounds like talking.

Tips:

Talk with your child all the time – and give them time to talk with you. You can use your first language.

If your child is stuck on a word:

- wait a few seconds, give them a chance to think.
- if they are still stuck, help them to try to work the word out by saying ‘read the sentence again and think what would make sense’. Ask “could it be...?” (and give a word that might fit). The pictures also help them check they have got the right word...
- if they still can’t work out the word, tell them and praise their efforts. Remember, reading should be fun.

After two years at school...

they will bring home fiction and nonfiction



books. The stories will be longer and might include diagrams, some familiar words, new topic words and descriptive language.

Tips:

Talk a lot to your child while you are doing things together. Use the language that works best for you and your child.

When they are reading, your child will still be coming across words they don’t know. When this happens, you could remind them to think about what they already know to do when they get stuck. If that doesn’t help you might ask “What word would make sense that starts like that?” or “What do you know about that word that might help?” If they still can’t work it out – tell them and praise their efforts.

By the end of Year 4...

they will be reading a variety of fiction and non-fiction stories to support their learning in all areas of the curriculum.

Tips:

Keep the magic of listening to a good story alive by reading either made up, retold or read-aloud stories to your child – with lots of excitement through the use of your voice!

When they are reading, the most common difficulty your child is likely to have is working out the meaning of new words, phrases and expressions. To do this your child will use their knowledge of words and word patterns (e.g., prefixes, suffixes and root words) to help build meaning. You may need to remind your child to read back and forward for clues to help their understanding of what they are reading. Talk with your child about the meaning.

By the end of Year 6...

your child will be reading non-fiction books, chapter books, magazines, and information on the computer. They will be reading these kinds of stories in all areas of the curriculum.

Tips:

Encourage your child to read every day. Make reading fun and praise your child’s efforts, all the time.

By the end of Year 8...

your child will be able to find, think about, and bring together information and ideas across a range of books, stories and articles. As they do this they will be able to ask and answer questions across all curriculum areas.

Tips:

Help your child link stories to their own life. Remind them about what they have done when they read about a similar incident that happens in the story

Student reviews:

Jaydon Chieng (10), Year 6

I recommend *Wonder* by Raelle Jaramillo which is about a troubled kid and about the adventures of how he copes with being different from the people around him. I believe other children can learn from the book that even though you are different, you can still make a difference.



Caitlyn Zhang (10), Year 6

I like *A Little Princess* by Frances Hodgson Burnett which is about Sara who was born in a wealthy family. However, the father passed away from malaria, leaving the family poor. For a long time Sara thought their neighbour who was her late dad’s friend was the one who killed her dad, but later found out it was not his fault. Her dad’s friend then adopted Sara and they lived happily ever after. Its plot is complicated and Sara likes to talk in the old fashioned English even though she is very young. We can also learn a lot of complicated words.



Malia Meng (10), Year 6

I recommend *The Lord of the Flies* by William Golding. It is a pretty weird title and a bit serious because it’s about a civil war and parents send their children away to be safe. However their plane crashed leaving the girls and one boy alive. I recommend it because there are plenty of kids out there with parents who are quite strict like my own mum and it made me wonder what it would be like without any adults.



Daisy Lin (11), Year 7

I like *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott. This book is about three girls whose father went to war which left them poor. They were all in different age groups and all face different problems as a result, during this time. They had differing opinions about things which made the book really interesting to read. This is quite an old book and it also has a movie adaptation which I have watched and also enjoy.

