



Rascal's Readers

	WHAT CHILDREN CAN DO	BOOK CHARACTERISTICS	BOOK EXAMPLES
SETTING THE STAGE LEVEL 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listen to stories• Explore stories• Tell stories• Develop story sense	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Few words (if any)• Simple concepts• Mostly pictures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flora and Flamingo• Rosie's Walk• A Ball for Daisy• Float
STARTING OUT LEVEL 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn letters and letters sounds• Learn early words• Learn sight words	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Few words• A focus on sight words, rhyming words, and the alphabet• Simple concepts• Mostly pictures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ball• Up! Tall! and High!• Go, Otto, Go!• Eating the Alphabet
BUILDING SKILLS LEVEL 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read simple books• Decode phonetically regular words• Learn more advanced sight words	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Simple vocabulary• Pictures on every page• 1-2 lines per page	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elephant and Piggie• Fly Guy• Pete the Cat• A Pig, A Fox, and A Box
READING MORE LEVEL 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read independently• Rely less on picture cues• Read with increased fluency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More complex plots• Fewer and smaller pictures• 3-7 lines per page	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Frog and Toad• Mercy Watson• Mr. Putter and Tabby• Benny and Penny
ON MY OWN LEVEL 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read independently• Read books with more complex plots, characters, and vocabulary• Reading for meaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Richer vocabulary• Few or no pictures• 8 or more lines per page	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blink and Gollie• Dory Fantasmagory• The Chicken Squad• Ricky Ricotta's Might Robot

BOOKS AT THIS LEVEL HAVE

- Few words (if any)
- Simple concepts
- Mostly pictures

WHY WORDLESS PICTURE BOOKS?

Wordless picture books are a great way to get your child ready for reading! They not only promote visual decoding, original thinking, language production, and an understanding of multiple viewpoints, but they also build beginning readers' confidence and enthusiasm.

HOW TO USE THIS KIT

Show your child all of the books, letting them choose which to read first. Choice means so much to young children, so empowering them to make their own reading choices is another great way to get them excited about reading!

When your child chooses a book, point out the author and illustrator, and then look closely at the cover, prompting your child to describe what they see.

Allow your child to hold the book and turn the pages. As your child narrates the story, follow their lead and ask plenty of open-ended questions along the way ("I wonder what..." and "What do you think..." etc.)

If your child feels more comfortable looking at all of the pictures before narrating the story, go on a "picture walk" together, going through the story first by observing the pictures and then a second time with your child's narration.

Fun fact - not only will your child have lots of fun with wordless picture books but they'll also be accomplishing national reading standards for kindergartners!

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD BECOME A BETTER READER

Read together every day! This could be your child reading to you, you reading to your child, or simply you and your child each reading your own book in the same space. In addition to giving your child time to practice his or her new reading skills, reading aloud to your child is the single most important way to support learning.

Choose fun stories or fact books on topics your child loves. It's okay to not finish a book if your child isn't into it - the goal is to keep reading fun!

Listen to audiobooks in the car or at bedtime so your child can enjoy more complex stories.



BOOKS AT THIS LEVEL HAVE

- Few words
- A focus on sight words, rhyming words, and the alphabet
- Simple concepts
- Mostly pictures

WHY THE EMPHASIS ON SIGHT WORDS, RHYMING WORDS, AND THE ALPHABET?

In order to learn to read, children have to become expert decoders. At the very beginning, they need to know that a loopy line is a symbol for “S” and makes the sound “sssss” like a snake. As they gain this knowledge, they also need to know that different combinations of letters make different sounds and different words. This kit has been put together to help your child learn some of the different sounds and words that make up a story.

HOW TO USE THIS KIT

Show your child all of the books, letting them choose which to read first. Choice means so much to young children, so empowering them to make their own reading choices is another great way to get them excited about reading!

Help your child with the decoding process by sounding out new letters and words together. To extend your child’s learning, try labeling common things at home with different letters and words. Or, as you drive together, play the name game and call out different objects that you pass that start with different letters. If your child loves technology, try the apps “Endless Alphabet” and “Endless Reader.”

Fun fact – not only will your child have lots of fun mastering decoding, but they’ll also be accomplishing national reading standards for kindergartners!

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BUILDING SKILLS - LEVEL 3

BOOKS AT THIS LEVEL HAVE

- Simple Vocabulary
- Pictures on Every Page
- 1-2 Lines per page

WHY SIMPLE VOCABULARY, PICTURES ON EVERY PAGE, AND ONLY 1-2 LINES?

The easiest beginning readers are written at a first-grade level. As such, they are generally composed of first-grade sight vocabulary or one-syllable words of five letters or fewer. Having pictures on every page is important, as they offer essential picture clues to help the child, and provide little breaks for the eyes (like pictures, the blank white space around the text is vital for children, as they work hard to decode text, and need frequent places to rest their eyes.) Having only 1-2 lines per page is also beneficial for children beginning to read, providing just the right amount of words to challenge the new reader, but not to overwhelm.

HOW TO USE THIS KIT

Show your child all of the books, letting them choose which to read first. Choice means so much to young children, so empowering them to make their own reading choices is another great way to get them excited about reading!

Help your child with the decoding process by sounding out new words together. Have patience, and have fun with these hilarious hand-picked books!

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD BECOME A BETTER READER

Read together every day! This could be your child reading to you, you reading to your child, or simply you and your child each reading your own book in the same space. In addition to giving your child time to practice his or her new reading skills, reading aloud to your child is the single most important way to support learning.

Choose fun stories or fact books on topics your child loves. It's okay to not finish a book if your child isn't into it – the goal is to keep reading fun!

Listen to audiobooks in the car or at bedtime so your child can enjoy more complex stories.



BOOKS AT THIS LEVEL HAVE

- More complex plots
- Fewer and smaller pictures
- 3-7 lines per page


WHY MORE COMPLEX PLOTS, FEWER AND SMALLER PICTURES, AND 3-7 LINES?

As the act of decoding becomes more natural and children get used to the reading process, they are able to move on to longer, more complicated stories, with a more complicated vocabulary and sentence structure.

HOW TO USE THIS KIT

Show your child all of the books, letting them choose which to read first. Choice means so much to young children, so empowering them to make their own reading choices is another great way to get them excited about reading!

Try the “Five-Finger Rule” to see if this kit is at the right level for your child.



Have your child select a book, open it to any page, and read. Have them hold up a finger for each word he/she is unfamiliar with.

0 – Your child is proficient at this level. This book may be too easy.

1-2 – This book would be a good choice.

3-4 – This book might be a bit difficult. If your child is really interested in the book, please don't discourage them, but give them the chance and be ready to help with supplying a few words.

5+ - This book is probably too difficult. But please read it aloud to your child!

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD BECOME A BETTER READER

Read together every day! This could be your child reading to you, you reading to your child, or simply you and your child each reading your own book in the same space. In addition to giving your child time to practice his or her new reading skills, reading aloud to your child is the single most important way to support learning.

Choose fun stories or fact books on topics your child loves.

It's okay to not finish a book if your child isn't into it – the goal is to keep reading fun!

Visit museums, the zoo, sporting events and so on, to help your child build experiences and better understand what he or she reads.



BOOKS AT THIS LEVEL HAVE

- Richer Vocabulary
- Few or no pictures
- 8 or more lines per page


WHY RICHER VOCABULARY, FEW OR NO PICTURES, AND 8+ LINES?

At this stage, children have become fluent at decoding and are beginning to read for meaning. Books at this level, often called “Transitional Chapter Books,” are created with newly independent readers in mind. They have a richer vocabulary, sentences that are relatively short, direct, and uncomplicated, brief episodes, chapters, or intervals that stand out to the reader, and content that is compelling enough to hold a child’s interest, but not so complicated that it’s hard to follow.

HOW TO USE THIS KIT

Show your child all of the books, letting them choose which to read first. Choice means so much to young children, so empowering them to make their own reading choices is another great way to get them excited about reading!

Try the “Five-Finger Rule” to see if this kit is at the right level for your child.



Have your child select a book, open it to any page, and read. Have them hold up a finger for each word he/she is unfamiliar with.

0 – Your child is proficient at this level. This book may be too easy.

1-2 – This book would be a good choice.

3-4 – This book might be a bit difficult. If your child is really interested in the book, please don’t discourage them, but give them the chance and be ready to help with supplying a few words.

5+ - This book is probably too difficult. But please read it aloud to your child!

Children at this stage need to build self-confidence as they make the leap from easy readers to chapter books. Transitional books serve as a bridge. Some children may cross this bridge quickly, while others need to take their time. No matter how long it takes to cross, it is worth the journey!

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD BECOME A BETTER READER:

Read favorite books again and again.

Have your child ask library staff to help find more books by a favorite author, in a series, or by genre (for example, mystery or funny books).

Listen to audiobooks in the car or at bedtime so your child can enjoy more complex stories.

