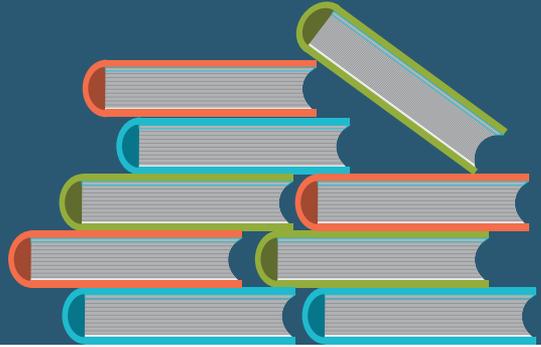


Grade-Specific Reading Tips For Parents

Kindergarten

Your Kindergartener Should Be:	How You Can Help Them:
Learning that words have meanings	Reading is more fun when the meaning is special – write your child notes and ask them to tell you what it means
Recognizing short, common words	Point out words that represent familiar objects, like “stop” or “bus”
Beginning to read short, easy stories by themselves	Ask questions about those stories to test understanding
Getting familiar with the alphabet, both capital and lower case letters	Ask your child to read simple phrases to remind them which letters make what sounds
Starting to use reading to do homework and understand assignments	Make sure they can explain written school assignments to you
Re-reading or asking you to re-read their favorite books over and over	Let them re-read the same book or read it to them if they ask – it helps your child learn how a story flows from beginning to middle to end



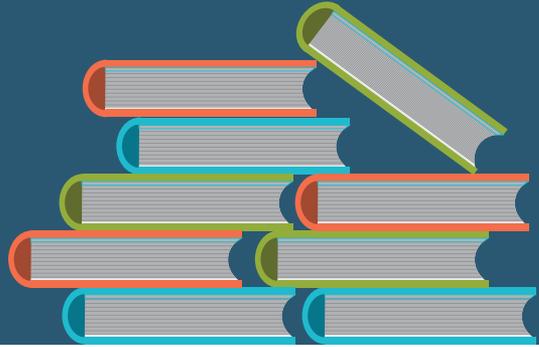
First Grader

Your First Grader Should Be:	How You Can Help Them:
Learning the meanings of new words	Encourage your child to explore new words and help to figure them out
Recognizing that words are formed by putting sounds together (c+at = cat)	Help them break down a tougher word into its parts; So, "story" becomes "s+t+or+y"
Writing short sentences and retelling or drawing pictures of the stories they read	Encourage them to write; ask them to write notes, messages, or to keep a journal; talk with them about the pictures they draw
Reading aloud to sound out new or challenging words	Take turns! Read to your child, then ask them to read to you
Exploring different types of books to find out what they like	Encourage them to read many kinds of books; pay attention to those your child seems to prefer (fiction, non-fiction, funny, sports-related, etc.)

Grade-Specific Reading Tips For Parents

Second Grader

Your Second Grader Should Be:	How You Can Help Them:
Reading books at their level by themselves, though they still need help with harder books	Only help your child to read when they ask for help, and praise them when they read on their own
Sounding out new words and showing pride when they figure it out	Tell your child “good job!” when they figure out new words; play games involving letters, words, and rhyming
Able to read chapter books with few pictures and understanding the meaning of the story	Instead of reading to your child at night, ask them to read a bedtime story to you!
Learning what kinds of books they do and don't like	Allow your child to pick out their own books; pay attention to what types of books your child does and doesn't like, and seek out new books that fit their interests



Third Grader

Your Third Grader Should Be:	How You Can Help Them:
Starting to read to learn, instead of learning to read	Help them find books about topics they want to explore, and connect their reading to family outings; if they read a book about sharks, take them on a visit to the aquarium
Able to read faster, and able to read 1st and 2nd grade books as well as you can	Allow them to re-read their favorite books that they can read easily, but also encourage them to read new books that challenge them based on the five-finger rule
Getting a good idea of what types of books they like and dislike	Pay attention to what kinds of books they read and seek out new books that may fit their interests and abilities
Regularly reading books assigned in school, and to complete homework	To make sure your child doesn't view reading as a chore or assignment, allow them to pick their own books and designate a place in your home just for reading
Exploring different types of books to find out what they like	Encourage them to read many kinds of books; pay attention to those your child seems to prefer (fiction, non-fiction, funny, sports-related, etc.)