

What kinds of books should my child be reading?

Books he chooses. Let your child have some choice in what he reads – even if he wants to read the same books over and over again. We are all more interested in reading things that we like.



Easy books. Provide lots of opportunity for your child to read books that are fairly easy for him, as this can make reading more enjoyable and help to build motivation for reading. When a child is asked to read things that are too hard, he can become frustrated and lose confidence. Your child's teachers and librarians can help you and your child make book choices that are right for him.



More challenging books. Sometimes, because he is interested in a topic, a child might want to read something that is a bit too challenging. In these cases, you can provide support by reading the hard parts out loud with him. Or, you might read the book to your child first and then listen to him read it.

Dictated Stories. Many children enjoy telling stories or composing messages that someone else writes for them (or types on the computer). These stories can become long and involved and often include the child as a main character (for example, as the star of a sporting event or as the heroine or hero of an adventure story or fantasy). Often children are able to read these stories fairly easily even though they contain many words the child might not recognize otherwise. Stories the child has created are easier for him to read because he already knows the story line. After all, he is the author and so has a sense of what words to expect. Children who enjoy writing/ dictating stories will often enjoy reading them over and over to family members and friends.



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