

Raising Readers

You Read to Me

When you read:

Although it's wonderful when your child is able to read on his own, continue to advocate for your child to read at least 20 minutes a day and read aloud together too.

You will need to know your child's independent reading level so she can choose "right-fit" books to read alone. You may ask your child's teacher to identify her independent reading level. You may also choose to use the five-finger test. Use the bookmark to help you remember how to conduct the test.

Easy books will continue to help your child read fluently, learn more about vocabulary words, and help him with comprehension strategies. Even if a book is above your child's reading level, don't put it back if it looks appealing to both of you. Go back and read aloud together or help your child choral- or echo-read part of the book with you.

After you read:

- Use the five-finger test to help your child select books at her independent reading level.
- Continue to build your child's vocabulary by asking her about three or four vocabulary words in the story and what they mean. Help your child figure out a word's meaning by doing a "think-aloud."
- Continue to build your child's library one book at a time. Go to the library and get a library card. Make reading a lifelong habit.
- Ask them to read aloud to you or to younger siblings.

Use the space below to write down one thing you learned and will practice at home:
