

HOW TO PICK THE BEST BOOK FOR YOUR CHILD

Choosing a book for your child is about more than just having fun, it helps them learn to read and sparks a love for books that can last a lifetime. Picking the right book depends on how old they are, what they like, and how they are learning to read. The process is guided by the Science of Reading, which is research-based knowledge on how children learn to read effectively.

WHAT IS THE SCIENCE OF READING?

The Science of Reading is a collection of studies and evidence about how the brain develops literacy skills. It explains that strong reading abilities come from five key areas: phonemic awareness (understanding sounds in words), phonics (connecting sounds to letters), fluency (reading smoothly), vocabulary (knowing word meanings), and comprehension (understanding what is read). This research combines insights from psychology, neuroscience, linguistics, and education, showing the best ways to teach reading and improve outcomes for all learners.

AGES
0-3

BABIES AND TODDLERS

At this age, kids are soaking up words and sounds. Books help them connect reading with happiness and fun.



AGES
4-5

PRESCHOOLERS

Preschoolers are learning that letters and sounds go together to make words.



AGES
5-8

EARLY READERS

Kids are learning to read on their own. They like books that help them practice new skills.



AGES
8-12

GROWING READERS

Children use reading to learn more about the world and explore their imaginations.



AGES
13+

TEENS

Teenagers enjoy books that relate to their lives or expand their views of the world.



BABIES AND TODDLERS (AGES 0-3)

At this age, kids are soaking up words and sounds. Books help them connect reading with happiness and fun.

- **Board books** with big pictures and simple words are great, like *Goodnight Moon* or *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.
- **Interactive books**, like ones with flaps or textures, keep little hands busy while they listen to a story.
- **Books with rhymes and rhythm** make language fun and easy to follow, like *Dr. Seuss's ABC*.
- **Wordless books** let toddlers imagine and tell the story their way.

Tip: Read with your child every day. It's a wonderful way to spend time together and help them learn new words.

EARLY READERS (AGES 5-8)

Kids are learning to read on their own. They like books that help them practice new skills.

- **Decodable books** are great for matching their reading level and building confidence.
- **Simple chapter books** like *Frog and Toad* or *The Magic Treehouse* introduce them to longer stories.
- Books about their **favorite topics**, like dinosaurs or space, keep them interested.

Tip: Read their favorite books over and over. It helps them read more smoothly and feel proud of their progress.

TEENS (AGES 13 AND UP)

Teenagers enjoy books that relate to their lives or expand their views of the world.

- **Young adult novels**, like *The Outsiders*, explore real-life challenges.
- Books from **different cultures and ideas** help them learn and grow.
- **Classics** like *The Great Gatsby* or *The Hobbit* build critical thinking skills.

Tip: Respect their choices. Allowing teens to select books fosters independence and ownership of their reading journey.

PRESCHOOLERS (AGES 4-5)

Preschoolers are learning that letters and sounds go together to make words.

- **Books with rhymes and repetition** help them recognize sounds, like *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* or *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*.
- **Interactive books** make reading exciting with fun features like flaps or questions.
- **Books with colorful pictures** hold their attention and make the story more fun.

Tip: Read aloud every day. Use expression and excitement to bring the stories to life for your child.

GROWING READERS (AGES 8-12)

At this stage, children use reading to learn more about the world and explore their imaginations.

- Books with **exciting stories and characters**, like *Charlotte's Web* or *Hatchet*, make reading fun.
- **Nonfiction books** teach them cool facts about animals, science, or history.
- **Book series** keep them hooked, like *Harry Potter* or *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*.

Tip: Talk about the stories together. Ask them what they think or predict what might happen next. This helps them think more deeply about the book.

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