

5 tips to help choose books for your child

Here are some tips to help you choose books that will keep your children enthusiastic about reading.

1. Select books that match your children's skill level

The *Five Finger Rule* can help you find out if a book is easy, just right or too hard. Ask your children to hold up a finger for every word they do not understand on a page. If there are more than 4 or 5 words on a page they do not know, the book is probably too hard and may prove frustrating. Try suggesting another book or reading the book together.

2. Rhymes, repetition, humour and pictures

Younger children enjoy books that use word repetition, rhymes and familiar words. Most children also like books that are funny. Look for books with colourful pictures and simple words.

3. Use books to learn about life events

Reading books about events affecting your children's lives (new brother or sister, moving, new school) can help them deal with fears and feelings. Choose books that relate to what's happening in your family.

4. Find favourite authors and popular books

If your child has a favourite book, try to find other books written by the same author. Ask friends, family, and teachers what books their children have enjoyed and try a book swap. The children's librarian at your local library can also be a great source for popular book suggestions.

5. Read languages other than English or French

Any kind of reading can help your children develop their skills, so encourage them to read books in languages besides English. If your children know how to read in their first language, they will find it easier to learn English.