

What is a "Just Right" Book?



Your child will be reading many books this year. A "just right" book is a book that your child can read independently; books should be neither too difficult nor too easy in order for your child to grow as a reader.

The "five finger rule" is one way for your child to choose a "just right" book.

Once your child has chosen a book, ask him or her to read the first page aloud. As your child reads, he/she should count on one hand any unknown words. If there are five or more unknown words on a full page of text, this book is too difficult. If your child knows all the words, it may be too easy.

When reading a "just right" book:

- Reading should be fairly fluent (not too choppy sounding)
- Your child should be able to tell you about what he/she has read
- Your child should be interested in the topic

Children enjoy and benefit from rereading familiar text, but in order to grow as a reader, your child needs to read books which are "just right." If your child chooses a book that is too difficult, this would be a great choice for reading together.

Remember: Reading aloud to your child is valuable at any grade level!