

Reading Development Booklist

**WHAT BOOKS TO CHOOSE,
AND WHAT SEQUENCE TO
READ THEM IN**

For Children from Preschool through First Grade

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Foreword

Developing a love of reading and the habit of reading independently for pleasure, is one of the greatest gifts you can give your child. For the past 30 years I have designed and taught reading programs for children with the purpose of developing strong reading skills and the lifelong habit of reading for pleasure. I have assembled this Reading Development Booklist so that you and your child can benefit from my experience.

Whether your child is remarkably advanced or substantially behind grade level, there is only one way to ensure a high level of reading skill and a love of reading: practice. If you follow my recommendations in each section of this booklist, your child will get plenty of practice reading independently, and that practice will be in the right books and at the right time.

Alongside independent reading practice, reading aloud plays a vital role in developing a love of books in your child. The warmth and love children experience when they are read to develops in them a strong bond that links them to books forever. Through reading aloud, you will transfer the love your child feels for you into a love of books and learning. For this reason, I have included extensive guidance for selecting read-aloud books as well.

I know from experience with my own family that the Reading Development Booklist will keep your child productively engaged with books, and will provide you and your child with many happy and productive hours immersed in the world of children's literature.

Paul Copperman

President, Institute of Reading Development

April 2004

How to Use This Book

This booklist contains a treasure of books to choose from and information to help you guide your child toward a love of reading. Please read the introduction so you know how best to use this wonderful tool.

Short-term Goals for Beginning Readers

Beginning readers need the phonics skills that help them get through the words, and the comprehension skills that help them understand the meaning of the stories they encounter. They need the confidence to participate fully in school, and to enjoy learning how to read. They need loving support from family, and they need warm, encouraging teachers who help them succeed at learning the many new skills they are expected to master.

By enrolling your child in our class, you have taken a strong step toward helping your child become a successful beginning reader. We will help your child have a successful year in pre-school, kindergarten, or first grade. We hope you and your child have a wonderful experience in the classroom and at home, working with our teacher, the literature we provide during class, and the workbook and parent guide that are yours to keep.

Long-term Goals for Beginning Readers

Although succeeding in the primary grades is very important, we want parents to be considering how to ensure their child succeeds in the long term. Over the next several years, your child will go through a series of reading development stages that should result in achieving reading fluency. Fluent readers move smoothly and effortlessly through the words; they understand the stories they read; and they experience complete absorption in books. They take pleasure in reading stories, and they eagerly choose books for independent reading. We want your child to know what it's like to read fluently, with great pleasure, and with the deep satisfaction that the strongest readers feel as they read.

This process takes time, because your child will need to tackle increasingly difficult books over the years, and to develop the skills required to succeed at reading each level.

How to Use This Guidebook

Parents can help their children achieve reading fluency if they know what books their child should read, and when. There are thousands of children's books available, and various forms of advice offered. We want to simplify the process for you, and make it easy and enjoyable to guide your child toward developing fluency.

This booklist contains a carefully developed sequence of books. You will find books for beginning readers at many different levels, ranging from simple alphabet books to much more challenging “easy readers” containing challenging vocabulary and complete sentences. There are 5 lists of beginning books, and then 2 lists of easy readers. Also, there is a delightful selection of books to read aloud to your child. Here is what you need to use the booklist properly:

1. You have to know where to start. Your teacher will determine this during the reading program, and will let you know which list is the right one for your child to be reading books from. Generally it's best to start with books that are not a big stretch — there's plenty of time to advance to more challenging material.
2. You have to know how to use each list. There is an introduction to every list that explains what kind of book can be found there, and recommends the number of books your child should read from that list before moving on. It's important to stay with each list and have your child complete the recommended number of books, because success and mastery comes with repetition.
3. You have to acquire the books. Whether you plan to buy the books or borrow them from your library, it makes sense to get a good quantity of them at the beginning. You can order 20 or 30 Easy Readers at one time from a bookstore, or you can take the maximum number of books your library allows you to borrow at one time. That way, your child will be able to move from one book to the next as soon as he's ready.

When children are hearing books read aloud to them, when they're working with books on their own as very beginners, and when they are reading independently, you'll find that they want to go over the same book again and again. That's how learning becomes permanent, so you should go along with that. When it is time to move on to a new book, keep picking books from the same list until you've read the recommended number of books from that list. It's always fine to go back to old favorites, even after your child has moved on to more challenging material.

Note: On each booklist we have identified some books as "double-listed" books to make choosing books more convenient for your family. Some books can be used for two different purposes. If, for example, you're looking for a book that might do double-duty as an easy reader for a 5-year-old and a read-aloud story for his younger sister, keep an eye out for "double-listed" books.

Wordless Books

Wordless Books are picture books without any words. The illustrations are delightful, and they tell a story. So beginning readers can “read” them by studying the pictures and telling the story in their own words. Children (and parents) have a lot of fun doing this, and it strengthens children’s ability to understand what books mean, and to perceive the beginning-middle-end nature of books.

How Do You Use Wordless Books?

You can model this new form of “reading” by going through a Wordless Book page by page with your child, with you telling the story to go with the pictures. After you’ve done that, have your child look at the book and tell you what happened in the story.

Try to work through at least 3 to 5 Wordless Books, more if you find your child really enjoys them.

When Do You Use Wordless Books?

Because they contain no words, you can choose wordless books and work with them during your child’s work in Labeling Books, and you can come back to them when your child is going through Books with Few Words. You don’t have to go through the Wordless Books and then leave them behind; you can come back to them.



- *Go through the book together while you tell the story in your words, and then have your child try.*
- *Complete at least 3 to 5 Wordless Books.*
- *For variety, you can write down your child’s version of the story, or part of the story, as a Story Dictation. Then you can read your child’s story aloud while paging through the Wordless Book, and your child can read the story too.*

I've read this book!

My Name

Month and Year

Anno, Mitsumasa. **Anno's Journey.**

Illus. by the author. Puffin Reissue, 1997, 32 pages.

Anno time travels through Europe, meeting characters from history and literature along the way. Children will enjoy following Anno's journey from one page to the next, as the villages he travels through get more populous and more modern.

I've read this book!

My Name

Month and Year

Briggs, Raymond. **The Snowman.**

Illus. by the author. Random House, 1987, 32 pages.

In this classic picture story, a boy spends the day creating a snowman, then can't get to sleep. At night the boy invites the snowman into his house, and the snowman takes the boy on a tour of the snow-covered world.

I've read this book!

My Name

Month and Year

***S** Day, Alexandra. **Good Dog, Carl.**

Illus. by the author. Bt. Bound, 1999, 32 pages.

Somewhat like the dog Nana in Peter Pan, Carl can be counted on to mind the baby while mother is out. Day's charming visual fantasy allows small children to imagine the fun they could have if a dog like this one was their baby sitter. First in a series of many books.

I've read this book!

My Name

Month and Year

***S** Day, Alexandra. **Carl's Christmas.**

Illus. by the author. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1999, 32 pages.

"Take good care of the baby, Carl," say mom and dad, signaling that baby is about to have another adventure while in the care of the family dog. Carl takes baby into town on Christmas Eve, and later Santa arrives with a special present for Carl.

I've read this book!

My Name

Month and Year

Goodall, John S. **Creepy Castle.**

Illus. by the author. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1991, 60 pages.

Goodall uses half pages to quicken the pace of this suspenseful story with colorful pictures and no words. Join two brave mice as they venture into a scary castle and explore its many chambers.

I've read this book!

My Name

Month and Year

Goodall, John S.

The Midnight Adventures of Kelly, Dot, and Esmeralda.

Illus. by the author. Margaret K. McElderry Reissue, 1999, 32 pages.

This charming tale of a doll, a toy bear, and a mouse is a dreamlike adventure. Alone in the nursery, the little creatures have tea in a doll house, climb inside a painting, and explore the world inside the picture frame. When scary things happen, will Kelly, Dot, and Esmeralda escape?

I've read this book!

My Name

Month and Year

Goodall, John S. **Paddy to the Rescue.**

Illus. by the author. Athanem, 1986, 62 pages.

Goodall uses his trademark half pages to speed the action in this tale of Paddy Pig in pursuit of Robber Rat. When Rat steals some jewels from Mistress Pig, Paddy chases him over rooftops, out to sea, and all through the town. Will Paddy catch Rat?

I've read this book!

My Name

Month and Year

Goodall, John S. **The Story of a Main Street.**

Illus. by the author. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1987, 58 pages.

Kids can combine time travel with a bit of history as they turn the pages of this book and see an English country town change through the centuries. The author uses half-pages to create a sense of flow in this wordless story of a Main Street.

I've read this book!

My Name

Month and Year

Goodall, John S. **Shrewbettina's Birthday.**

Illus. by the author. Harcourt, 1971, 60 pages.

Kids will enjoy predicting events in this surprisingly action-packed version of a little mole's birthday. There's a thief, a rescue, a party to plan, and a celebration with animal friends.

I've read this book!

My Name

Month and Year

Mayer, Mercer and Marianna Mayer.

A Boy, A Dog, A Frog and A Friend.

Illus. by the authors. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1971, 29 pages.

A boy, a dog, and a frog sit quietly waiting to catch a fish – until something pulls the boy into the water! A lively story follows, and the trio makes a new friend. *Double Listed: see also Picture Books.*

I've read this book!

My Name

Month and Year

Mayer, Mercer. **Frog on His Own.**

Illus. by the author. E.P. Dutton Reissue, 1986, 32 pages.

When a frog leaves his boy for an adventure in the park, all sorts of amazing things can happen. Join a curious frog as he samples a bee, explores a picnic basket, and encounters a cat. *Double Listed: see also Picture Books.*

I've read this book!

My Name

Month and Year

Mayer, Mercer. **Frog, Where Are You?**

Illus. by the author. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1986, 32 pages.

A pet frog creeps out of a jar, leading to an adventure in the local park. Will the boy and his dog find that frog?