

Ways to Assess Your Child's Reading Level at Home

Why is determining your child's reading level important?

According to [HarperCollins](#), for children to consistently increase their reading abilities, they should practice with books they can read on their own. Appropriately leveled books should contain some challenging words but shouldn't overwhelm students difficulty.

Determining reading level is important to ensure your child is not getting overly frustrated because they're struggling with material that's too difficult or losing interest in a book that's too easy.

Methods to Try at Home:

Five Finger Method²

Have your child choose any book and flip it to a random page. Ask your child to read the page to you. If your student has difficulty with five or more words on that page, the book is too advanced for them. You can try a variety of pages to confirm the error rate.

Keep a Running Record¹

Make a photocopy of a passage or section of text that's written for the grade level you think your child is reading at. Listen to your student read the passage aloud and mark it where they make errors. Note the type of errors they're making to help you identify what they're having difficulty with. You can also record an audio clip of them reading aloud. Save the recordings by date for easy review.

Track Book Reading Levels³

On the back of most books, near the list price, you'll see something like this: RL 3.3. This reading level indication is an estimation, typically for students in grades K–6, where the first number is the grade level and the second number indicates the month of study. A book with this indicator was written for students with the reading ability and vocabulary in their third month of third grade. Keep track of the reading level of your child's favorite books for a rough estimate of what level they're reading comfortably.

References:

¹ <https://www.harpercollins.com/blogs/harperkids/reading-levels-for-children-explained>

² <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/raise-a-reader-blog/five-finger-rule.html>

³ <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/reading-resources/book-selection-tips/learn-about-leveled-reading.html>