



BRIGHT MINDS

Building a love for reading

Winter 2023

Reading tip spotlight

For children to enjoy reading throughout childhood and into their teen years, it is important for them to choose their own books. Children are also more likely to read more if teachers and caregivers give them choice. According to the Scholastic Kids and Family Reading Report, nearly 90% of participating

children agreed that their favourite books and the ones they were most likely to read to the end were the books they picked out themselves. Children feel pride when they finish reading a book they have self-selected

If your child chooses a book that is too hard to read on their own, it is a good opportunity for a read aloud with a caring adult. If they choose a book that is too easy, that is okay occasionally. If you are concerned about the content of a book, ask a librarian or teacher, check online reviews, or read it yourself. One of our favourite websites for reviews is **Kids' Book Review**.

www.kids-bookreview.com

What better place to come than your local library to give children opportunities to choose a variety of books for free? If you're

Questions to ask your child's school

1. How often does my child have the opportunity to read self-selected books?
2. What strategies has my child been taught so that they can confidently self-select books?
3. How often does my child visit the school library to choose books?
4. Who is available to support my child to choose 'just right' books that will interest them?

having trouble getting to the library, check out our digital collections in

Libby and BorrowBox.

We have hundreds of eBooks, audiobooks, and read-along books for children and teens.

www.libbyapp.com

www.borrowbox.com

It is important that children have guidance on how to choose books that are a good match for them. Some ways to support children are:

- Ask them what types of books they prefer: scary, funny, family or friendship stories, mysteries or adventure. Or perhaps they prefer nonfiction.
- Ask them if they prefer short, medium or long books, with lots of words or less words with pictures.
- Ask them to read a couple pages aloud and help them use the '5 finger test' bookmark to determine if it is a 'just right' book.
- Ask a question or two about the book to check their understanding.

Allow your child to self-select books

5 Finger Test Bookmark

Take the Five Finger test to find out if a book is just right for you. Choose a page and read it out loud.

Each time you come to a tricky word you don't know, put one finger up.

1 Finger - Easy!

2 Fingers - Just right

3 Fingers - A little bit hard
But it could be fun to try

4 Fingers - Difficult to read
Try reading with parents or friends

5 Fingers - Too difficult for now
Save it for next year



Some useful resources



5 Finger Test Bookmark

Cut out and use this bookmark to help you and your child determine if a book is 'just right' for them to read by themselves. For a book to be 'just right', your child should have about 96% accuracy when reading. It is equally important that your child understands the meaning of what they are reading.



Check out this website for helpful reading hints

Brightly: Raise kids who love to read is a website that has hundreds of articles, reviews and book lists for parents and carers who want reliable information about how to support their children from birth through the teen years with developing a positive reading life.

 www.readbrightly.com

Questions to ask your child while reading fiction:

- Where and when does the story take place?
Does this change during the story?
- What is the setting in the story? Does the setting change?
- What was the problem in the story and how was it solved?
- Did the character change during the story? How?
- How are you like the main character? How are you different?
- What do you predict will happen next in the story?
- Why do you think the author chose this title for the story?
- Do you like the title of the story? Why or why not?
- Can you think of a different title for the story?
- Which character from the story would you choose to be your friend? Why?
- Which part of the story was the most exciting? Why?
- Did you like the end of the story? Why or why not?
- Which parts in the story could really happen?
Which parts could not really happen?