

Helping Your Child Find a Book to Read On Their Own (Independent Levels)

Children should be reading books that they are comfortable reading. Research shows that if children are continually reading books that are too hard for them, there is an actual decrease in reading development. By having children use the 5 Finger Rule, students can actually determine what books are appropriate levels to be reading on their own.

The 5 Finger Rule

To get started open to a page in the middle of the book selected.

Begin to read out loud. Hold one hand up with fingers outstretched.

For each error or mistake made on the page, put one finger down.

After reading the entire page, check how many fingers you still have up.

READING LEVEL CHART

- 4-5 fingers up = independent level
- 3 fingers up = instructional level
- 2 fingers up = instructional/frustration level
- 1 finger up = frustration level (**DO NOT** allow a child to read at this level. Offer to read it to them)

* Choose books at the independent level. If there is high interest for a book at instructional level encourage the child to read it.