

READY★TO★READ



PARENT GUIDE

Level One ★ Reading Stars

ALL CHILDREN CAN BE READING STARS!

The key to helping children become reading stars is finding books that they love. Simon & Schuster has created a leveled reading system that will help you do just that! The five Ready-to-Read levels make it easy to determine which of the many wonderful Ready-to-Read books are best suited for your young reader.

This guide explains how to get the most out of the Ready-to-Read levels. It also provides tips for improving your child's reading skills, ideas for motivating your child to read, and suggestions for fun, reading-related activities and projects for the whole family. Whether your child starts out as Stellar Starters, Rising Stars, Reading Stars, Superstars, or Megastars, the Ready-to-Read books will help make their reading experience out of this world!

STELLAR STARTER! ★ Ready-to-Go! ★ Sight Words



RISING STAR! ★ Pre-Level One ★ Recognizing Words



READING STAR! ★ Level One ★ Starting to Read



SUPERSTAR! ★ Level Two ★ Reading Independently



MEGASTAR! ★ Level Three ★ Reading Proficiently





How the Ready-to-Read Leveling System Works

Each Ready-to-Read book has been assigned a level, from Ready-to-Go! (Stellar Starter) to Level 3 (Megastar). When you see the level on a book, you'll know instantly whether it's likely to be too easy, too hard, or just right for your child.

Tip: You can determine if a level is too high by having your child read the first page or paragraph. If they miss three to five words (depending on the length of the passage) the text is on a frustration level. Books need to be on a child's "independent reading level" to move through the levels.

Ready-to-Go!: Stellar Starter

- ★ Phonics
- ★ Rhyming words and repetition
- ★ Choral reading

Is your child using pictures to understand what words mean? Are they exploring letter-sound relationships? The books at this level feature beloved characters and authors, such as Snoopy, Daniel Tiger, and books by Eric Carle.

Pre-Level One: Rising Star Reader

- ★ Shared reading
- ★ Familiar characters
- ★ Simple words

Does your child enjoy listening to you read and sometimes say some of the words along with you? The books at this level—filled with characters that kids know and love, such as Daniel Tiger, and series such as *The Adventures of Otto*—are just right for your child.

Level One: Reading Star

- ★ Easy sight words and words to sound out
- ★ Simple plot and dialogue
- ★ Familiar topics and themes

Can your child recognize some simple words? Are they starting to sound out words and sentences? *Angelina Ballerina*, *PJ Masks*, *Robin Hill School*, and many more classic and new characters are waiting for your child at this level.

Level Two: Superstar Reader

- ★ Longer sentences
- ★ Simple chapters
- ★ High-interest vocabulary words

Is your child beginning to read longer sentences and stories on their own? At this level, your child can learn and grow with the *Peanuts* gang, *Henry and Mudge*, and many more loveable characters as well as exciting nonfiction series.



Level Three: Megastar Reader

- ★ Longer, more complex story plots and character development
- ★ Variety of challenging vocabulary words
- ★ More difficult sentence structure

Is your child a confident reader? Are they ready for a challenge? In the books at this level, many fun and exciting characters, along with engaging nonfiction titles, will take them on journeys they won't soon forget.

How to Pick Books Your Child Will Love

Once you've determined the right level for your child, it's time to pick a book. Every Ready-to-Read level has lots of fantastic books to choose from—so how do you figure out which ones to select? Try these ideas:

- Think of the kinds of books your child has enjoyed reading in the past, and find more like them. For example, do they enjoy books about animals? Consider trying the School of Fish books or Henry and Mudge series.
- Choose books about experiences that your child can relate to. For example, did they recently enjoy playing outside on the beach? Try *Summer Treasure* from the Robin Hill School series.
- What does your child love to do? If they're interested in dancing, try the Angelina Ballerina books. If they like superheroes, try the PJ Masks books, based on the hit television series!
- Is your child in a "reading rut"? Are they tired of reading about the same few topics over and over again? If so, try something completely fun and new. The Big & Bunny series by Jason Tharp is sure to create some big laughs!
- When you were a child, which books did you love? Maybe you grew up reading about the sweet adventures of Henry and Mudge or Eloise? Try sharing one of your favorites with your child—your love for these books will be contagious!



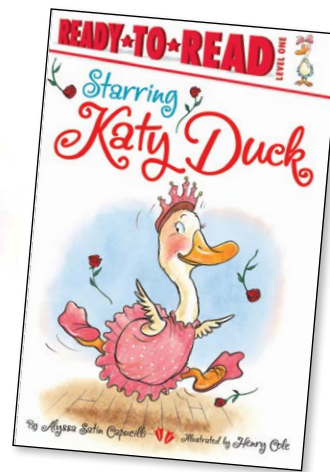


Tips for Reading with Your Child

- Children at Level One are working on sounding out words. For that reason, try to pick books that have interesting sounds, such as repeating sounds or rhyming sounds. Help your child connect the sounds to letters.
- The Level One books contain lots of simple words to sound out. Help your child sound out words. If they get stuck, talk with them about what word might make the most sense. Or, draw their attention to a picture that might provide a hint.
- As you read, stop periodically to ask your Reading Star questions. Ask basic questions to make sure they understand the story. Then ask questions that get your child to think, such as “why” questions about the characters and the plot.
- After you finish reading a Level One book, ask your child to retell what happened. Encourage them to use words such as first, next, then, and last to tell the events in the right sequence. Help them fill in important details if they leave any out.

Motivating and Encouraging Your Child to Read

- Keep a list of your child’s “sight words,” or the words they recognize immediately when they see them. Add new words to the list as your child reads more books and increases their sight word vocabulary. Together, set a goal for the number of words they’ll learn by a certain date. Give them a small prize when they reach their goal.
- Make an effort to talk about books at various times throughout the day, such as during car rides or family meals. Tell about what you’re reading, and have your child do the same. Share what you like and dislike, and ask each other questions. Your child will be excited to be involved in this family conversation!
- Use the “Reach for the Stars!” reading chart to keep track of your child’s progress. Help them sound out the title of each book you write on the chart, and then let them place a sticker beside each title.





Activities and Projects for the Whole Family

- In *Friday the Scaredy Cat*, Friday says that he isn't scared of chickens or bicycles, but he is scared of chickens riding bicycles! Play a fun game based on Friday's silly fear. Gather twenty note cards and a pen. On ten of the cards, write the name of an animal, such as "cow." On the other ten, write an activity, including ordinary things like "washing the dishes" or not-so-ordinary things like "dying your hair blue." Keep the cards in two piles and turn them all over. Then, take turns drawing one card from the animal pile and one from the activities pile. Everyone needs to draw a picture of the chosen animal doing the chosen activity—such as a cow dying its hair blue! Then, compare your silly pictures!
- Friday names all the things he is scared of and all the things he isn't scared of. Help your child make a list of at least five challenging things they're not scared of, such as going to the dentist or trying new foods. Help them make a "Bravery Badge" for each one by cutting out a cardboard circle, writing down the name of what they're not scared of, and having them draw a symbol to represent it. (For example, for "Going to the Dentist," they might draw a gleaming white smile or a toothbrush.) In the future, as your child conquers different fears, help them make new Bravery Badges to add to their collection.
- Get inspired by the students at Robin Hill School and plant your very own "garden!" After reading *The Garden Project*, help your child cut out pictures of fruits and vegetables from magazines, grocery store flyers, and seed catalogs. Tape or glue their fruits and vegetables onto a piece of brown or green construction paper—this will be their "garden." Name and discuss all the fruits and vegetables and discuss the benefits of each one with your child.
- The nonfiction Weather series is a great introduction to earth science for young readers! Create a monthly weather chart with your child, complete with cut out suns, raindrops, clouds, snowflakes, and other weather-related images. As part of a morning routine, ask your child what they think the weather will be for the rest of the day and have them tape or glue the weather icon that matches their description onto their weather chart. For example, if they think it will be a cloudy day, have them tape or glue a cut-out cloud to that day in the calendar. At the end of the month, review which weather happened the most, the least, and an equal amount of times, using the opportunity to talk about the seasons and the kinds of weather to expect during each season.



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