

READY★TO★READ



PARENT GUIDE

Pre-Level One ★ Rising Star Readers

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

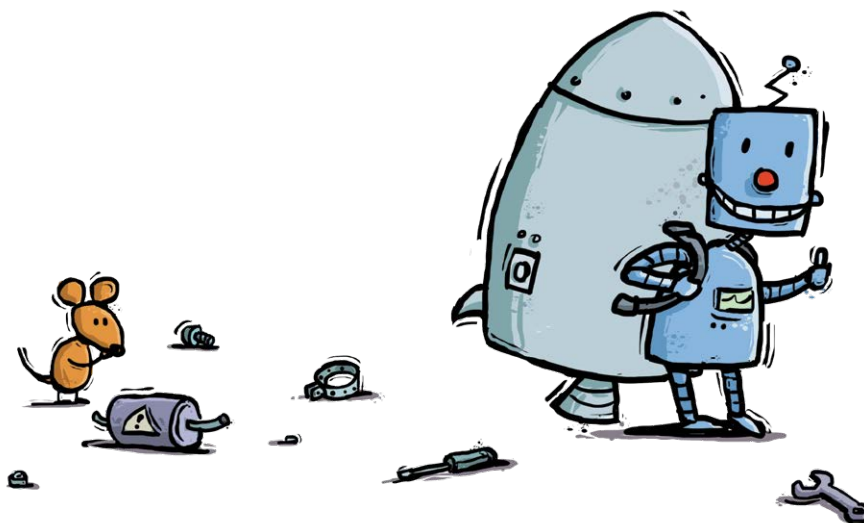
- ★ Longer, more complex story plots and character development
- ★ Variety of challenging vocabulary words
- ★ More difficult sentence structure

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 books based on the hit television show *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood* or the *Mouse* books.
- Choose books about experiences that your child can relate to. For example, did they recently go on a camping trip? Try *Daniel Goes Camping*, a *Daniel Tiger* book based on the popular TV show.
- What does your child love to do? If they're interested in dancing, try the *Katy Duck* books. If they like books with robots, try *The Adventures of Otto* 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, such as the *My First* books, which take little ones through different first experiences, like the first day of school or how to care for their first pet!
- 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

- It's important for Rising Star readers to be involved in the reading process. Encourage your child to help you read. Have them turn the pages, identify certain letters, and say what they think might happen next.
- The Pre-Level One books have many repeated words or phrases. Draw your child's attention to these words and phrases, and let your child read them each time they appear in the book. Or, pause just before the end of a repeated phrase, and have your child fill in the last word.
- As you read Pre-Level One books, pause frequently to talk about the pictures. Explain how the illustrations relate to the text by showing what's happening in the story. Point out interesting or important details that your child might miss.
- Make reading fun by being dramatic and expressive. Use different voices for each character. Or, try altering your volume, facial expressions, and gestures to help your Rising Star readers keep track of the characters and understand their emotions.

Motivating and Encouraging Your Child to Read

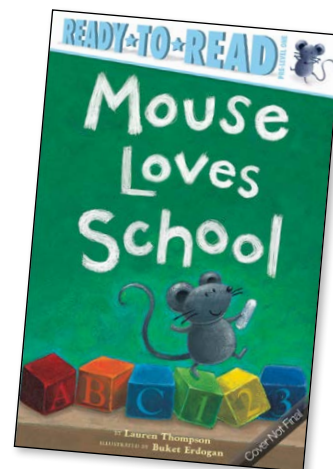
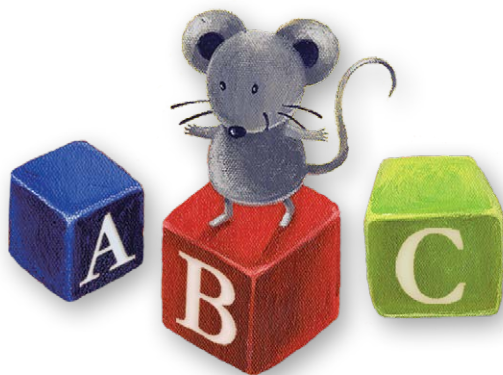
- Your child will be excited to read books about familiar characters. If you find a character your child loves, stick with it. Read a variety of books about that character. When it's time to move on to something new, look for another Ready-to-Read character that has some similarities to the old character.
- Before reading a new book, talk with your child about the cover. Who do they think the book will be about? What do they think will happen? Why? Then, read the book so your child can find out which of their predictions were accurate!
- Use the "Reach for the Stars!" reading chart to keep track of all the books your child has read. Praise your child often for their progress, and reward them periodically with a small prize such as a bookmark or an extra book before bedtime.





Activities and Projects for the Whole Family

- In *Mouse Loves School*, Mouse finds a great puzzle to play with. Work with your child to create their very own puzzle. First, find a piece of sturdy paper, such as construction paper or thin cardboard. Then, draw a picture on it. You can draw anything: shapes, like on Mouse’s puzzle; a family portrait; or even a scene from *Mouse Loves School!* Let your child help you with each step: deciding what to draw, drawing the picture, and coloring it in. Then, flip over the page and use a pencil to divide it into puzzle pieces of different shapes and sizes. Use scissors to cut along the pencil lines. Finally, let your child put together their very own puzzle!
- Mouse also has lots of fun at school when he finds a book about the ABCs in his classroom. Play a variety of different games with your child to help reinforce letter recognition and letter sounds. For children who are just learning the alphabet, pick a letter and point it out on a page of the book. Then have your child find another example of that letter in the book. Do the same activity with letters you see around your house or around town. For children who are learning to match letters to sounds, name a letter and take turns saying all the words you can think of that start with that letter. A challenging variation is to take turns naming words that end with that letter.
- *Space Cows* is filled with many different kinds of cows. Help your child create their own space cow with construction paper, crayons, craft sticks, glue, and children’s modeling clay.
- The nonfiction *My First* series celebrates all kinds of fun and exciting firsts with sweet photos and text. After reading *My First Ballet Class* by Alyssa Satin Capucilli, watch video clips of famous ballets with your child. Introduce them to the music and see if they can do any of the ballet moves (safely!). Hold an impromptu ballet recital at home using the book as inspiration.



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