

READY★TO★READ



PARENT GUIDE

Ready-to-Go! ★ Stellar Starter 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 start 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

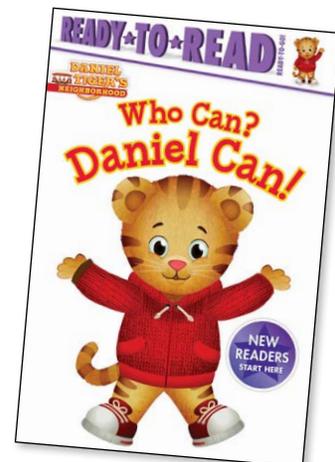
- ★ Longer, more complex story plots and character development
- ★ Variety of challenging vocabulary words
- ★ More difficult sentence structure

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 that make them laugh out loud? Consider trying The Adventures of Zip books.
- Choose books about experiences that your child can relate to. For example, did they recently start school? Our Ready-to-Read books based on the hit TV show *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood* help children navigate new experiences, like starting school for the first time.
- What does your child love to do? If they like dinosaurs, try our Dinosaur Train Ready-to-Reads, based on the animated television show!
- When you were a child, which books did you love? Maybe you grew up reading books by beloved author Eric Carle? Try sharing one of your favorites with your child—your love for these books will be contagious!



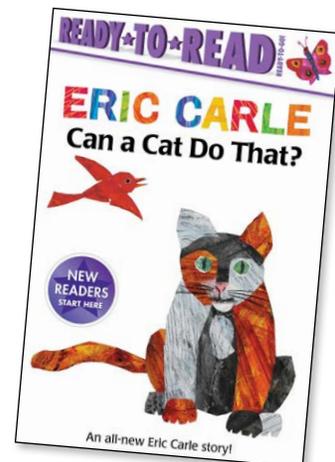


Tips for Reading with your Child

- Ready-to-Go books contain a lot of rhyming words and alliterative phrases. Have your child clap out the syllables of words and character names as they explore the rhythm of the words.
- Ready-to-Go readers are quickly expanding their vocabularies. As you read, point to new words and ask your child what they think each one means. Similarly, have your child point out repeating words that they are beginning to recognize, such as “the” and “can.”
- After finishing a Ready-to-Go book, reread together out loud and with expression to help foster reading fluency.
- Help your child connect the stories they read in the Ready-to-Go books with their own personal experiences.

Motivating and Encouraging Your Child to Read

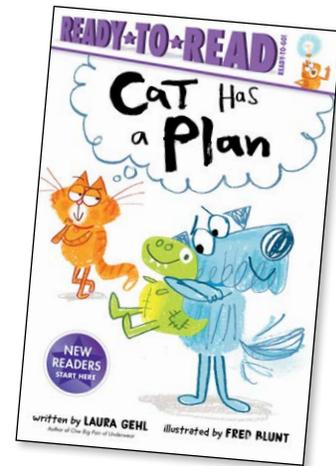
- Your child will be excited to read books about familiar characters. If you find a character your child loves, stick with it. When it’s time to move up, fan favorite characters like Daniel Tiger and Snoopy make a reappearance in our more advanced Ready-to-Read books.
- Construct a “word wall” for your child to add new words they come across in their reading. Include illustrations for each word you add!
- 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 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

- See *Zip Zap* involves a full cast of colorful characters. Ask your child to count all the different characters in the story.
- Have your child draw Zip and then encourage them to create a brand new alien friend for Zip!
- Readers will come across many “-ap” and “-ip” words in *The Adventures of Zip* books. Help your child generate a list of words that rhyme with “zap” and “zip” by forming letters and words out of Play-Doh.
- Create puppets of Cat and Dog from *Cat Has a Plan* and help your child put on a puppet show of the book!
- Readers learn about some of the things a cat can do in *Can a Cat Do That?* Ask your child to come up with a list of questions they have about cats and help them research answers to their questions.
- Many of the animals featured in *Can a Cat Do That?* are mammals. Explain to your child the characteristics of mammals and see if they can name the other mammals in the book.



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