CHOOSING THE RIGHT BOOKS

When reading with your child you want to find the “Goldilocks” of books. You want a book that’s not too hard, not too easy but one that is just right. Use these tips to find a book that is just right for your child.

1. Open the book to any page.

2. Read the words on that page.

   ONE WORD: OK
   TWO WORDS: Still OK
   THREE WORDS: You may need help
   FOUR WORDS: Tough to read
   FIVE WORDS: Too hard

3. Count the number of words that you cannot read.

4. Use your fingers to help you decide if this a good book to read.

The RULE of FIVE

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2. Read the words on that page.
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4. Use your fingers to help you decide if this a good book to read.

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HOW TO READ WITH A BEGINNING READER

• Complete a picture walk BEFORE reading.
• Predict what may happen in the book.
• Model and encourage your child to track print.
• Read a word or sentence and have your child repeat it.
• Take turns reading each page.
• Talk about the story as you read. What do you think will happen next? What does this story remind you of?
• Read the story again! Repeated readings build fluency and confidence!
Tracking print is an important tool a beginning reader must learn. Tracking print is when you point to each word as you read it aloud. While reading with your child encourage them to track print as you read aloud or as you’re reading together. Tracking print helps your child learn new words by seeing them and hearing you read them aloud. Tracking print also lets you know if your child is paying attention while listening to a read aloud. Children can track print with their finger, a pencil or a cool pointer! Modeling how to track print as you read aloud is important too!
When reading with your child, check for understanding by asking questions. Don’t just ask questions at the end, it’s important to check for understanding before, during and after reading. Here are some questions to ask!

**BEFORE**
- What do you think will happen in this story?
- What might be the problem?
- Where may be the setting of the story?
- What do you know about this topic?
- What does this story make you think of?
- What are you wondering?
- What does the title tell you?

**DURING**
- What do you think will happen next?
- What can you tell me about the story so far?
- How do you feel about the story so far?
- What questions do you have?
- Why do you think the character did that?
- What would you have done?

**AFTER**
- What was the title?
- What was the problem/solution in the story?
- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- What was your favorite/least favorite part?
- What would you change about the story?
- What will happen next?