



Choosing Books for Different Age Groups



Narrative

Focus on stories that are most likely to keep the child engaged and challenged and also on plots that motivate them to keep turning the page.

Tone

Funny books are a good choice for many readers but some children may respond well to more serious stories that deal with emotional rather than action-based events. Tone also relates to the themes or issues which different books will raise for the child.

Language

In terms of the text, it is best that children are somewhat challenged but not intimidated by what they are reading. Look for books which use colourful but not heavily descriptive language. Children should benefit from every book they read and for their vocabulary, fluency and comprehension skills to improve. As children develop as readers, stories which introduce elements of fantasy will enrich their reading experience.

Choosing Books for 2-4 year olds

Characteristics of stories that offer excellent opportunities for storytelling include:

- Easy to follow sequences
- Repetitive words or phrases
- Predictable tales
- Action-packed
- Clear messages or morals





Choosing Books for 5-7 Year Olds

Stories for increasingly independent readers include:

- Chapter books
- Challenging picture book titles
- Reading more linguistically challenging books together
- Trilogies and series books to engage children and maintain their interest across a number of titles
- Non-fiction or information books which relate to their interests and hobbies
- Film tie-ins; encourage children to read the book first and then watch the film together!

Choosing Books for 8-10 Year Olds

- Classic fiction titles
- Longer works of fiction – reading one chapter per night
- Books with interesting illustrations
- Increasingly complex picture books and graphic novels
- Humorous books, to particularly engage boys, and which also improve language awareness

Choosing Books for 10-12 Year Olds

- Longer and more challenging fiction titles
- Topic books on science, nature or geography to tie in with schoolwork and projects
- Poetry collections
- Biographies
- New genres: science fiction, fantasy, mystery etc.