

Where to start?

The choice of books can be daunting and the way they are arranged in some bookshops doesn't always help.

Arranging books by age range will only give you a very rough idea of where to start. 'Books for 9-13 year olds' tells you that the story is suitable for most children of that age. However, an avid reader may well find these books a little easy, while a child who has just moved on from the reading scheme may find them a little challenging.

The best way of finding a suitable book is to take your child into a bookshop or library and let him or her choose a book which interests them. They need to read over a few pages themselves to check that they are comfortable with being able to read it.

Selection is the key!

Use our recommended list, recommendations from friends, The Guardian Children book site, your child's existing interests and most importantly, select a book that is engaging and not too difficult.



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Independent Reading

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As more and more of our children are moving on from the reading scheme and becoming independent readers, we feel that it is important for them to be given guidance for choosing the most suitable books and making sure they are not hungry of other genres, such as newspapers and biographies, for example.

Within this leaflet, you will be provided with hints and tips for making the first steps in choosing a book along with several examples for every ability of the Independent reader.

Feed your brain...with a good book!



Tips and Advice for Parents: Independent Reading



Three things to remember!

1. **Discussion** is just as important as reading. As well as developing confidence and articulacy, it is also what your child will be marked on as they move through secondary school.
2. Even reading for as little as **20 minutes a day** counts as having a consistent reading habit!
3. Reading isn't just something which has to be done for school, it is also something which can be **enjoyed!** Why not read the newspaper whilst eating breakfast every morning?

Why not try these?

www.cool-reads.co.uk

www.guardian.co.uk/books

www.ukchildrensbooks.co.uk

Further guidance:

<http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/>

Here are some of the books!

Beginner

(if your child has recently been taken off the reading scheme)

Butterfly Lion by Michael Morpurgo

Gangster Granny by David Walliams

Bloody Horowitz by Anthony Horowitz

My Friend Walter by Michael Morpurgo

Angel Cake by Cathy Cassidy

Diary of a Wimpy kid by Jeff Kinney

Diamond Girls by Jacqueline Wilson

The Demon Headmaster by Gillian Cross

Here are some of the books!

Intermediate

Fatboy Swim by Catherine Forde

Little Darlings by Jacqueline Wilson

Born to Run by Michael Morpurgo

Million Dolar Mates, Catwalk Queen by Cathy Hopkins

War Horse by Michael Morpurgo

Advanced

Alone on a Wide, Wide Sea by Michael Morpurgo

Harry and the Wrinklies by Allen Temperly

The Harry Potter Series by JK Rowling

The Hobbit by JRR Tolkien

Bootleg by Alex Shearer

Abomination by Robert Swindell