



3-Ds to Choosing the Right Book

Did you know that student reading achievement is related to the number of books and literacy materials found in the home? A study conducted by the National Assessment of Educational Progress found that the more books you have in your home, the more likely your child will pick one up and read it. So it is important for your family to have a home library with lots of books on the shelves. Follow the 3-Ds to select books your child will want to pick up and read!

Dig the topics: Lots of books are of high-interest

unDemanding: Books are on a level that's just right

Diverse: A wide variety of book/text types

Magazines/flyers/brochures • Music lyrics • Culturally diverse texts • ESL--books in your first language • Technical manuals • Comic books/graphic novels • Digital texts • Audio books

Leveled readers • Chapter books • Biographies • Informational text • Fiction (historical, contemporary, mystery, adventure, science fiction) • Poetry • Plays



Tips on Choosing Age-Appropriate Books

Source: *Reading is Fundamental (RIF)*

Young Readers (Ages 6 to 11)

- Clear text that is easy to read
- Colorful, attractive illustrations and photos that bring the text to life and give clues to the meaning of unfamiliar words
- Books that appeal to your child’s interests
- “How-to,” craft and recipe books with clear, simply worded instructions and helpful illustrations
- Other books by your child’s favorite authors and illustrators
- Books with your child’s favorite characters
- Stories your child enjoyed hearing when he or she was younger; these are great books for children to begin reading on their own

Adolescents (Ages 12 and Up)

- Books about subjects that interest your child
- Novels that might help your child cope with daily challenges of growing up by featuring characters dealing with similar experiences
- Books that introduce new experiences and opportunities
- Fact books, such as world record books, trivia books and almanacs
- Biographies, classics, folk tales, historical fiction and mythology

Books About Choosing Good Books

- *Best Books for Kids Who (Think They) Hate to Read* by Laura Backes. Prima Lifestyle, 2001.
- *Choosing Books for Children: A Commonsense Guide* by Betsy Hearne and Deborah Stevenson. University of Illinois Press, 2000.
- *Great Books for Boys* by Kathleen Odean. Ballantine, 1998.
- *Great Books for Girls* by Kathleen Odean. Ballantine, 2002.
- *How to Get Your Child to Love Reading* by Esmé Raji Codell. Algonquin, 2003.
- *The Read-Aloud Handbook, 6th Edition* by Jim Trelease. Penguin, 2006.

Quick Tips!

- A book doesn’t have to win an award to be considered “good.” It doesn’t have to be a best seller or on a recommended booklist, either. A good book is simply one a child enjoys reading.
- Knowing how to choose good books is a skill your children will keep for the rest of their lives. Take time to show them how. Encourage them to select books on their own as soon as they show preferences. You can even let them pick two kinds of books—one to read with you and one to read on their own.
- It’s okay to look through a book and then decide not to read the whole thing. If you don’t like a book after reading a chapter or a few pages, pick another one. Reading is supposed to be fun, not a chore.
- Find lists of book recommendations for kids online.

Come read with us!
Visit JustTake20.org for more fun reading activities!

Just Take 20 is funded by the Florida Department of Education and managed by Just Read, Florida! and the Bureau of Family and Community Outreach.

