

I Love to Read Month

Supporting Your Child's Reading Development: A Guide to the Stages

① Pre Reading

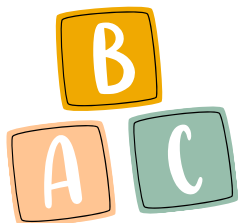
During this stage, children are in the **early phases of developing language and communication skills**. The focus is on laying the foundation for future literacy skills through various activities:

- Language Exposure: Surrounding the child with rich language experiences is crucial. Adults should **talk, sing, and read** to their infants regularly. This exposure helps in building vocabulary and language comprehension.
- Storytelling: Even before a child can read independently, they benefit greatly from being exposed to storytelling. This can involve **reading picture books, telling simple stories**, or narrating daily activities. Storytelling helps develop listening skills, imagination, and an early understanding of narrative structures.
- Building Vocabulary Through Simple Interactions: Everyday interactions, such as pointing out and naming objects, are instrumental in vocabulary development. Engage in **conversations** with your child, **describing things, asking questions**, and encouraging them to respond, even if it's just with gestures or babbling.



Reading aloud with an adult can: **increases** a child's level of **attachment**, **enhances** their **sense of security**, and **helps them feel** they are **worthwhile** people with whom to spend time.

(How to Raise a Reader)



② Emergent Readers

In this stage, children are **starting to show an interest in books** and are **ready to explore the world of reading**. Key elements during this phase include:

- Importance of Picture Books: Picture books play a crucial role in developing emergent reading skills. They combine illustrations with simple text, aiding in understanding the connection between words and images. Parents should **encourage interactive reading, pointing at pictures, and discussing the story together**.
- Letter Recognition: Introduce the alphabet through fun activities like alphabet books, games, and puzzles. Help children **recognize letters** and understand their **basic sounds**. This sets the stage for future phonics learning.
- Basic Phonics Activities: While not all children may be ready for formal phonics instruction, simple phonics activities like **identifying initial sounds**, and playing with **word families** can foster early phonemic awareness.

③ Beginning Readers

As children enter the beginning reader stage, they are ready to **take on more complex reading tasks**. Parents can support this development by:

- Strategies for Decoding: Teach children strategies to decode unfamiliar words. This may involve **sounding out words** by encouraging them to **break down words into syllables** and **identify common prefixes and suffixes**.
- Fluency: Practice is key to building reading fluency. Encourage your child to **read aloud, re-read familiar text**, and provide opportunities for them to **read independently**. Fluency is not just about speed but also about expression and comprehension.
- Comprehension Strategies: Help children develop comprehension skills by **asking questions** about what they're reading. **Discuss** the main ideas, characters, and events in the story. Encourage them to make predictions, summarize, and connect what they read to their own experiences.



Understanding these stages can guide parents in tailoring their approach to their child's current developmental level, ensuring that they receive the appropriate support and encouragement at each step of their reading journey.