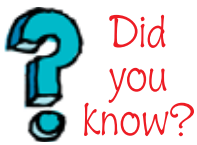


Ages and Stages of Reading

Ages 6–8: WORD KNOWLEDGE

At this age... Children are breaking through and learning to read, so they need to know all of their letters and multiple sounds. These important skills must be practiced and well honed into second grade.



Reading does not come naturally! It is a practiced skill that has to be fostered. Research suggests that children need to be exposed to words between 6 and 60 times before they can memorize and read them fluently. Reading fluency is when a child reads without stopping to sound out words. He has the flow of reading.



To help beginning readers LOVE reading, allow them to choose books that interest them. It is important that children have positive experiences with books and reading, and they must have age-appropriate books that are not too hard and not too easy, so that they can be successful.

ALERT: If your child is still having difficulty reading at age 8, parents should plan to address the problem. A few suggestions:

1. Start with the teacher. Schedule a one-on-one appointment and try to determine if more concentrated support is needed, or if an underlying problem may be causing the difficulty.
2. Work with the teacher to implement a reading improvement plan for your child.

Reading does not come naturally!
This is a practiced skill that has to be fostered.

