

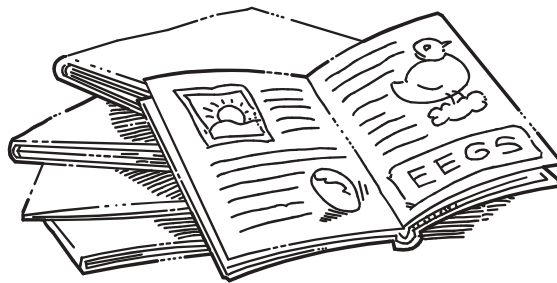
Choosing the Right Books

It's important to give your beginning reader access to good books at home. When choosing titles, trust award winners and recommendations by teachers or librarians. Ask your child his opinion, and don't worry if he wants a book about a cartoon hero instead of a children's classic. Simply forming a love of books is valuable.

As you build a home library, include:

- **Easy-to-read books.** When he's passed picture books and is too young for chapter books, your child is ready for leveled books. These usually have less than 50 pages, large type, short sentences, and illustrations that give clues about the story.
- **A range of reading levels.** Choose books on level with recommendations from your child's teacher (levels are usually listed on the back cover). But keep easier favorites on hand since reading familiar books boosts confidence. Select some advanced books and read them together to introduce new words and concepts.
- **Nonfiction.** At this age, your child might be attracted to science and books that answer questions about the world. Even if he doesn't read these like a regular storybook, he may pour over fascinating pictures.
- **Rhythm and rhymes:** Poetry and rhyming stories will make him aware of the sounds in words. These books often repeat a limited number of words throughout the story. This repetition is important as your child starts to recognize sight words.

See our booklists at www.scholastic.com/read for recommended titles that match your child's interests and skills.



Ask an Expert

How can I help make sure my child is ready to read?

First, work on helping her build these skills: identifying all the letters of the alphabet, understanding that letters create words, and realizing that words on a page are read from left to right. Then, before expecting her to read a story on her own, help her learn to recognize small, frequently used sight words such as "go," "you," "for," etc.

Meet Our Phonics Expert: *Wiley Blevins is the Director of Primary Programs at Scholastic. A former elementary-school teacher, he is a respected trainer, researcher, and author of more than 30 children's books.*

Have a question about reading? Find advice at www.scholastic.com/read.

Did You Know?

World Teachers Day is October 5.

Your child can show her appreciation with a homemade card that says, "Thank you!"

Get *Your Seesaw Reader Now* Every Month

at www.scholastic.com/read

Help Your Child Get the Best Resources at School

Remember, every time you purchase books from the *Seesaw Book Club*, your child's classroom earns Bonus Points, which teachers use to get free

books, and learning materials from Scholastic!

Daily Reading Fun

Write the 50 Top Sight Words (see page 2) on slips of paper. Every morning, let your child pick one slip out of a hat. Tell him to carry it all day and to write a slash mark on the back whenever he sees the word. Count his "score" at bedtime. Soon he'll be searching for words on signs, cereal boxes, and in books!

Beyond Books

Cut out 10 small pumpkins. Have your child draw different facial expressions on five of them. For each face, write one word on a blank pumpkin that describes the expression (happy, scary, etc.). Help your child match each word to the right face. Mount the pairs on poster board and make it part of your Halloween decorations.



50 Top Sight Words

Sight words are common words that may be hard to decode and sound out, but are important for your child to know. Whenever you read with her, point out some of these words so she'll learn to recognize them.

| | | | | |
|--------|-------|--------|------|-------|
| I | look | that | here | what |
| see | for | pretty | are | in |
| ride | me | like | did | this |
| on | too | to | it | is |
| play | run | they | want | have |
| with | said | go | new | three |
| my | a | help | one | we |
| can | funny | at | two | get |
| little | up | find | you | will |
| big | down | the | and | fly |

Play BINGO!

Write the words above on slips of paper. Then cut out the cards below and use them to play word BINGO!

| | | | | |
|----------|----------|------------|----------|----------|
| B | I | N | G | O |
| are | a | go | what | they |
| can | up | you | on | did |
| look | in | FREE SPACE | two | down |
| to | with | said | pretty | is |
| big | ride | want | one | we |

| | | | | |
|----------|----------|------------|----------|----------|
| B | I | N | G | O |
| see | for | at | one | in |
| get | what | have | are | you |
| here | go | FREE SPACE | me | three |
| a | is | with | too | we |
| down | funny | can | fly | little |

Editors' Pick of the Month

Available in your *Seesaw October Book Club* flyer.

The Spider and the Fly
adapted by Tony DiTerlizzi



Who it is for: Kids who like scary (but not too scary!) stories

Why we chose it: Its silent-film style illustrations encourage kids to hunt for details — an important skill that helps beginning readers learn sight words.

Parents say: “This story’s message about being wary of strangers really sinks in because the pictures are so memorable.”

Kids weigh in: “I like how I see something different every time I look at the pictures!”

More Seasonal Stories that Make for Great Reading Practice:

- Pumpkin Jack* by Will Hubbell
- Skeleton Hiccups* by Margery Cuyler
- Trick or Treat* by Bill Martin, Jr.
- Room on the Broom* by Julia Donaldson

About *Your Seesaw Reader Now*

Your Seesaw Reader Now is produced by the Family Channel editorial staff at Scholastic.com. For information on how to foster reading at home, age-appropriate booklists, and more, visit All About Reading. Go to: www.scholastic.com/read.