



## Selecting Books for Children

### Why it's important

Children who have positive reading experiences tend to develop larger vocabularies, become better readers and perform better in school.

Selecting books that are just right for a child is important so that they aren't reading books that are too easy, too hard, or that they have no interest in.

By following these simple and easy steps, you can find books that are just right.

MSU Extension recommends 30 minutes of literacy activities a day and exploring a variety of reading and literacy materials.

For more information or additional resources visit:

[http://msue.msu.edu/topic/info/early\\_childhood\\_development](http://msue.msu.edu/topic/info/early_childhood_development)

### Five Finger Rule

- » Choose a book that you think you will enjoy.
- » Read the second page.
- » Hold up a finger for each word you are not sure of or do not know.
- » If there are five or more words you did not know, you should choose an easier book.

### Is it a good fit?

Read two or three pages and ask yourself:

- » Will it be an easy, fun book to read?
  - Is it a topic that interests me?
  - Do I understand what I am reading?
  - Do I know almost every word?
  - When I read it aloud, can I read it smoothly?
- » Will this book be too hard for me?
  - Are there five or more words on a page that I don't know or am unsure of?
  - Is this book confusing and hard to understand by myself?
  - When I read it aloud, does it sound choppy and slow?

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer, committed to achieving excellence through a diverse workforce and inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

Adapted from "Selecting Books for Your Child: Finding "Just Right" Books, Kathleen Rogers, 2008, Reading Rockets.