

Activities with Short, Easy Reader Books

- **Book choice**
Let your child choose their own books. But show them how. Explain how to look at the cover, read the back, flip through the pages, and so forth. Then let them practice. A lot.
- **Tracking**
Follow the words you or your child reads with a finger or reading pointer.
- **Reread**
Children gain confidence and skill by reading familiar books more than once. Practice makes better.
- **Take turns**
Take turns reading each page. Or have your child echo read immediately after you say each word or sentence. This will help build confidence and show how fluent readers read with expression.
- **Write**
Kids love reading what they write. Write a story together or individually. Write poems. Write love letters. Just write. Then read what you wrote.
- **Background knowledge**
The more background knowledge a child has about a subject, the better their comprehension when reading. You can build this. If you're reading a book on caves, find YouTube videos about caves or go visit a cave. Then read the cave book.

Activities with Easy Chapter Books

- **Reading nook**
Make a [cozy reading area](#) with your child's help.
- **Listen**
[Listen to audiobooks](#). They improve a child's vocabulary and increase their love of story.
- **Discuss**
When you're reading books together, stop and talk.

Discuss the words, the story, what you think will happen next, questions you have, and if you have connections to your own life. This will be a lot of YOU modeling for your child, but before long your child will be jumping in.

- **Monitor meaning**
Some kids read words without thinking what they mean. Avoid this by encouraging your child to frequently stop to answer you about what's happening or ask themselves, "Am I understanding what's going on?"
- **Headlamps**
Headlamps really motivate my kids to read. The trick is to set an early bedtime. Then let your kids "stay up late — just this once" (or ten times) so they can read in bed with their headlamps.
- **E-Books**
Entice more reading practice with a Kindle or an e-Reader. Both my kids have Kindles and one of their favorite things about them is looking up new words.
- **Retell**
Tell your child about the book you're reading. This models how to retell and shows that you're a reader and thinker too. Then, help your child retell what is happening in the book they're reading. (Don't worry too much about differentiating between summarizing and retelling just yet.)
- **Fluency**
Model how to read the story with expression. Pause at periods. Use different voices for different characters. Encourage your child to do the same. It's also fun to read in a voice different from your own: British, cowboy, princess, monster, or baby.

Good readers are thinkers. With these beginning reading activities, you're helping your child think by learning specific reading strategies so they improve in their overall reading ability. Go, you!