

LEL READING TIPS



Supporting your child

It is important that students read daily, especially in time spent out of school! Learning slides happen during breaks and it is important that we actively combat this slide by reading daily. Reading with your child as well as modeling for them that adults read purposely and for pleasure gives children an answer to “why do I have to do this?”

- **The Right Books:** Connect them to good and interesting books. There are so many incredible resources online that take all the leg work out of finding age appropriate and engaging texts. Read books aloud that have interesting and more complex characters and storylines (think about books for 1-2 grades ahead)
- **Make the Time:** Set aside non-negotiable daily reading time and make it novel. Read together in new spaces, with a shared snack, or in comfy pajamas. Children love rituals and specialized routines, make reading a family habit in your home.
- **Complete the Log:** Help your student log their books in their reading log. This gives them evidence of growth.

Create a Special Reading Space



This winter break, have your child create their very own reading space in a room of your home. Make it comfortable, inspiring, and enjoyable. It can be a tent or simply a pillow in the corner...having a dedicated space to read encourages children to dive into a good book!



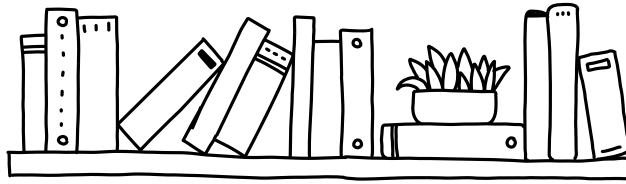
Send us a Photo

Email a photo of your child in their reading space over break. They can share their reading spaces with the class once we return to school.



How to Find Good Books

- **Visit the Library:** Take a trip to the local library and guide your child to topics you know they are interested in- (ex: magnets, dinosaurs, baby animals)
- **Do a Genre Survey:** Read a few books from a variety of genres to see what your child connects with and to show them there are all kinds of books to explore!
- **Find a Series:** Often times finding a good book is the most challenging part, reading books from a series takes this struggle out of the equation.
- Visit **WhatShouldIReadNext.com** for more ideas



SUGGESTED LEL READING

Don't know where to start? Here are some ideas.

Early / Emergent Readers

- Elephant & Piggie, Mo Willems: humor, repetitive phrasing, building reading confidence
- Frog and Toad, Arnold Lobel: gentle stories, predictable patterns, rich vocabulary
- Little Bear, Else Holmelund Minarik: warm early-reader classics that support fluency
- Henry and Mudge, Cynthia Rylant: simple chapter structure, friendship themes
- Ling and Ting, Grace Lin: approachable text with cultural representation
- National Geographic Kids Readers (Level 1): accessible nonfiction with strong photo support
- DK Super Readers (Level 1): clear informational text for early readers
- Seedlings Series (Bellwether Media): simple nonfiction with clean visuals
- Penguin Young Readers – Level 1: early biographies and science topics

Developing Readers

- Magic Tree House, Mary Pope Osborne: approachable chapters integrating history & geography
- Ivy + Bean, Annie Barrows: humor, friendship dynamics, relatable characters
- The Princess in Black, Shannon Hale: short chapters, adventure, strong female lead
- Yasmin, Saadia Faruqi: culturally inclusive realistic fiction for young readers
- Amelia Bedelia (I Can Read), Peggy Parish: language play and humor
- Mercy Watson, Kate DiCamillo: illustrated chapters with expressive vocabulary
- Zoey and Sassafras, Asia Citro: science concepts blended with imaginative storytelling
- Magic Tree House Fact Trackers: nonfiction companions to fiction titles
- Who Was? Board Books (Early Biographies): accessible introductions to historical figures
- Let's Read and Find Out Science Series: inquiry-based science topics for young learners

Confident / Advanced Readers

- A to Z Mysteries, Ron Roy: early mystery stories that build logical thinking
- Nate the Great, Marjorie Weinman Sharmat: deductive reasoning in approachable language
- Judy Moody, Megan McDonald: character-driven humor, emotional intelligence
- Stink Series, Megan McDonald: engaging, relatable, high-interest for reluctant readers
- Geronimo Stilton, Elisabetta Dami: high-visual chapter books for developing stamina
- Owl Diaries, Rebecca Elliott: graphic hybrid format ideal for visual learners
- Wayside School, Louis Sachar: short episodic chapters with imaginative humor
- Clementine, Sara Pennypacker: strong character voice, great for readers ready for longer stories
- Who Was? / What Was? Series: accessible biographies and history topics
- National Geographic Kids (Levels 2–3): more complex nonfiction for curious readers
- DK Eyewitness Junior: high-interest topics for confident informational readers

Montessori-Aligned Topic Suggestions

- Animals & Biomes: supports classification and research work
- Geography & Culture: connects stories to real places and people
- Biographies of Peace Leaders & Innovators: aligns with Montessori's cosmic vision
- Nature, Botany & Ecology: supports observation and scientific thinking
- Physical Science & Simple Machines: ties to hands-on classroom work
- Human Body: encourages inquiry and real-world understanding
- Cosmic Stories / Universe / Earth History: big-picture narratives children love