

Parent Reading Checklist

What to look for at each stage — one page, on the fridge.

Check what your child can do most of the time. Anything unchecked is simply your next practice target, not a problem.

Getting ready (Pre-K - Kindergarten)

Done	Skill
☐	Knows most letter names and sounds
☐	Hears rhyming words and can make one up
☐	Claps syllables in a name
☐	Blends /c/ /a/ /t/ into cat
☐	Holds a book right side up and turns pages front to back

Beginning reader (Grades K - 1)

Done	Skill
☐	Sounds out short words without guessing from the picture
☐	Recognizes 50+ sight words instantly
☐	Reads simple sentences left to right, tracking with eyes
☐	Retells what happened in a short story
☐	Self-corrects when a word doesn't make sense

Growing reader (Grades 2 - 3)

Done	Skill
☐	Reads aloud smoothly, in phrases rather than word-by-word
☐	Uses expression and pauses at punctuation
☐	Breaks longer words into chunks (fan-tas-tic)

Done	Skill
☐	Explains what a new word means from the sentence around it
☐	Chooses to read something on their own

Independent reader (Grades 4 - 8)

Done	Skill
☐	Summarizes a chapter in a few sentences
☐	Finds evidence in the text to back up an opinion
☐	Reads nonfiction and explains the main idea
☐	Sticks with a longer book to the end
☐	Notices when comprehension breaks down and rereads