

READY★TO★READ



PARENT GUIDE

Pre-Level One ★ Rising Star Readers

ALL CHILDREN CAN BE READING STARS!

The key to helping your children become reading stars is finding books that they love. Simon & Schuster has created a brand new system that will help you do just that! The four "Be a Reading Star!" levels make it easy to determine which of the many wonderful Ready-to-Read books are best suited for your young readers.

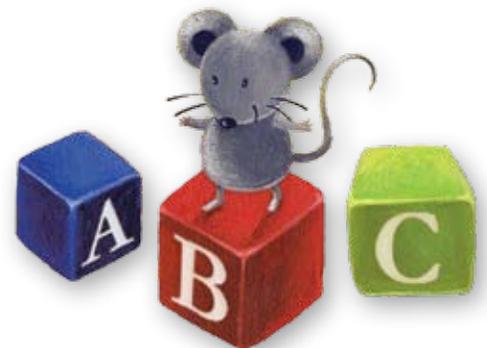
This guide explains how to get the most out of the "Be a Reading Star!" levels. It also provides tips for improving your children's reading skills, ideas for motivating your children to read, and suggestions for fun, reading-related activities and projects for the whole family. Whether your children start out as Rising Stars, Stars, Superstars, or Megastars, the Ready-to-Read books will help make their reading experience out of this world!

RISING STAR! ★ Pre-Level One ★ Recognizing Words

STAR! ★ Level One ★ Starting to Read

SUPERSTAR! ★ Level Two ★ Reading Independently

MEGASTAR! ★ Level Three ★ Reading Proficiently





How the “Be a Reading Star!” Leveling System Works

The key to Each Ready-to-Read book has been assigned a level, from Pre-Level 1 (Rising Star) to Level 3 (Megastar). When you see the level on a book, you’ll know instantly whether it’s likely to be too easy, too hard, or just right for your child.

Tip: You can determine if a level is too high by having your child read the first page or paragraph. If they miss three to five words (depending on the length of the passage) the text is on a frustration level. Books need to be on a child’s “independent reading level” to move through the levels.

Pre-Level One: Rising Star Reader

Shared reading
Familiar characters
Simple words

Does your child enjoy listening to you read and sometimes say some of the words along with you? The books at this level—filled with characters that kids know and love, such as Mouse and Lowly Worm — are just right for your child.

Level One: Star Reader

Easy sight words and words to sound out
Simple plot and dialogue
Familiar topics and themes

Can your child recognize some simple words? Is she starting to sound out words and sentences? Olivia, Dora, Friday, and many more classic and new characters are waiting for your child at this level.

Level Two: Superstar Reader

Longer sentences
Simple chapters
High-interest vocabulary words

Is your child beginning to read longer sentences and stories on his or her own? At this level, your child can learn and grow with SpongeBob, Henry and Mudge, Annie and Snowball, and many more loveable characters.

Level Three: Megastar Reader

Longer, more-complex story plots and character development
Variety of challenging vocabulary words
More-difficult sentence structure

Is your child a confident reader? Is he or she ready for a challenge? In the books at this level, many fun and exciting characters will take them on journeys they won’t soon forget.



How to Pick Books Your Children Will Love

Once you've determined the right level for your child, it's time to pick a book. Every Ready-to-Read level has lots of fantastic books to choose from—so how do you figure out which ones to select? Try these ideas:

- Think of the kinds of books your child has enjoyed reading in the past, and find more like them. For example, does he/she enjoy books about animals? Consider trying the Mouse books or the new Friday the Scaredy Cat series.
- Choose books about experiences that your child can relate to. For example, did he/she recently enjoy playing outside in the sun? Try *Henry and Mudge in the Green Time* from the Henry and Mudge series.
- What does your child love to do? If she's interested in dancing, try the Katy Duck books. If he likes learning about dinosaurs, try *Diego and the Dinosaurs* from the *Go, Diego, Go!* books.
- Is your child in a "reading rut"? Is he/she tired of reading about the same few topics over and over again? If so, try something completely fun and new. The *SpongeBob SquarePants* books are sure to create some big laughs!
- When you were a child, which books did you love? Maybe you grew up reading about the sweet adventures of Henry and Mudge or Eloise? Try sharing one of your favorites with your child—your love for these books will be contagious!



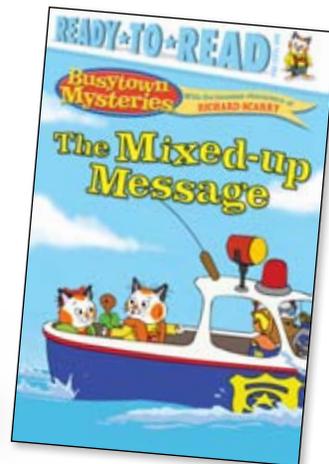


Tips for Reading with your Child

- It's important for Rising Star readers to be involved in the reading process. Encourage your children to help you read. Have them turn the pages, identify certain letters, and say what they think might happen next.
- The Pre-Level One books have many repeated words or phrases. Draw your children's attention to these words and phrases, and let your children read them each time they appear in the book. Or, pause just before the end of a repeated phrase, and have your children fill in the last word.
- As you read Pre-Level One books, pause frequently to talk about the pictures. Explain how the illustrations relate to the text by showing what's happening in the story. Point out interesting or important details that your children might miss.
- Make reading fun by being dramatic and expressive. Use different voices for each character. Or, try altering your volume, facial expressions, and gestures to help your Rising Star readers keep track of the characters and understand their emotions.

Motivating and Encouraging Your Child to Read

- Your children will be excited to read books about familiar characters. If you find a character your children love, stick with it. Read a variety of books about that character. When it's time to move on to something new, look for another Ready-to-Read character that has some similarities to the old character.
- Before reading a new book, talk with your children about the cover. Who do they think the book will be about? What do they think will happen? Why? Then, read the book so your children can find out which of their predictions were accurate!
- Use the "Reach for the Stars!" reading chart to keep track of all the books your children have read. Praise your children often for their progress, and reward them periodically with a small prize such as a bookmark or an extra book before bedtime.





Activities and Projects for the Whole Family

- In *Mouse Loves School*, Mouse finds a great puzzle to play with. Work with your children to create their very own puzzle. First, find a piece of sturdy paper, such as oak tag or thin cardboard. Then, draw a picture on it. You can draw anything: shapes, like on Mouse's puzzle; a family portrait; or even a scene from *Mouse Loves School!* Let your children help you with each step: deciding what to draw, drawing the picture, and coloring it in. Then, flip over the page and use a pencil to divide it into puzzle pieces of different shapes and sizes. Use scissors to cut along the pencil lines. Finally, let your children put together their very own puzzle!
- Mouse also has lots of fun at school when he finds a book in his classroom about the ABCs. Play a variety of different games with your children to help reinforce letter recognition and letter sounds. For children who are just learning the alphabet, pick a letter and point it out on a page of the book. Then have your children find another example of that letter in the book. Do the same activity with letters you see around your house or around town. For children who are learning to match letters to sounds, name a letter and take turns saying all the words you can think of that start with that letter. A challenging variation is to take turns naming words that end with that letter.
- In *Mixed-up Message*, Huckle solves the mystery when he realizes that *goat* rhymes with *boat* and *socks* rhymes with *rocks*. Rhymes help children develop an awareness of letter and word sounds, which is an important part of learning to read. Play a rhyming game with your children during ordinary conversations throughout the day. Deliberately say a word that rhymes with your intended word. For example, when you're about to get into the car, say "Let's get into the far!" Or, when you're folding laundry and need the red sock, say "Can you hand me the red dock"? Help your children decipher your silly "mixed-up message." Encourage them to identify the word you meant to say (*car, sock*). Then, challenge them to list other words that rhyme with those words.



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