**Reading Tips For Parents & Educators**

Find expert reading strategies and useful tips to help introduce children to the wonderful world of reading on their own with I Can Read!

[**Finding the Perfect Book for Your Child: A Guide to I Can Read!™ Levels**](https://www.icanread.com/finding-the-perfect-book-for-your-child/)

One of a child’s proudest achievements is learning how to read, and one of a parent’s proudest achievements is guiding the child from reading together to reading alone.

Choosing the right book for your child’s reading level can be an exciting but daunting task. Here is all the information that you will need to help find the right books for your child. I Can Read!™ books are organized into an easy-to-follow color-coded system.

**My Very First Level**

The My Very First level is the entry point for new, emergent readers. Box sets feature stories that are simple and predictable, and teach word recognition skills such as phonics. Stories about the loveable Tug the Pup and his friends are supported by colorful, engaging illustrations.  **My First Level**

Books at this level, like [Biscuit](https://icanread.com/9780064442121/biscuit) and [Pete the Cat: A Pet for Pete](https://icanread.com/9780062303790/pete-the-cat-a-pet-for-pete), have short compelling stories, and are written with simple vocabulary. These books are for children who are just beginning to match spoken words to printed words. Repeated phrases allow kids to read some words along with their parents.

**Level 1**

This level is for readers who are beginning to sound out words and sentences. Books at this level, like [Pinkalicious and the Perfect Present](https://icanread.com/9780062187888/pinkalicious-and-the-perfect-present" \t "_blank), [Danny and the Dinosaur](https://icanread.com/9780060224653/danny-and-the-dinosaur), and [The Berenstain Bears: Gone Fishin’!](https://icanread.com/9780062075598/the-berenstain-bears-gone-fishin), are written with simple sentences using familiar words. .

**Level 2**

Level 2 is for readers who are increasingly confident, but still need some help. Books at this level, like [Frog and Toad Are Friends](https://icanread.com/9780064440202/frog-and-toad-are-friends) and [Amelia Bedelia Joins the Club](https://icanread.com/9780062221308/amelia-bedelia-joins-the-club), include more complex story lines, longer sentences, and more challenging words. Mystery and adventure stories are included at this level, too. For kids who love reading about superheroes, a Justice League Classic, such as [I Am the Flash](https://icanread.com/9780062210050/justice-league-classic-i-am-the-flash) or [Superman: Day of Doom](https://icanread.com/9780062210012/superman-classic-day-of-doom) may be perfect reads.

**Level 3**  
Level 3 features many fun subjects kids love to read about on their own. Books at this level include challenging words and more complex themes.

**Level 4**

Books at this level are for kids who are well on the road to becoming book lovers. These adventures make reading fun for the advanced reader.

Posted on [26th August 2014](https://www.icanread.com/finding-the-perfect-book-for-your-child/) by [SupaduDev](https://www.icanread.com/author/supadudev/" \o "Posts by SupaduDev)

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[**5 Lessons to Learn From I Can Read Books!**](https://www.icanread.com/5-lessons-learn-can-read-books/)

New research shows that what children hear at a young age through reading aloud is likely to help shape their perspectives and how they act. Take advantage of this by finding great books to read aloud that teach your children great lessons while having fun!

**1. To be themselves:**

• Young children have the huge, active imaginations and reading aloud can help spark this creative intuition even more!

• Once they become comfortable with classic books to learn from, the I Can Read library gives nearly unlimited choices on different levels of reading and character preferences. Your young reader can decide for him or herself what books they love the best!

ICR books that highlight this:

• *Amelia Bedelia Chalks One Up*

• *Pete the Cat’s Super Cool Reading Collection*

• *Flat Stanley: Show-and-Tell, Flat Stanley!*

**2. To never give up:**

• Reading independently is one of the first big accomplishments that children understand and allows them to use it as a foundation for so much more. Learning to read can be challenging and have its frustrations, but persistent daily reading shows your child the importance of sticking it out.

• I Can Read! books are colorful, short, illustrated stories but they always show a character learning a lesson or overcoming an obstacle in a creative way. They can help teach your young learner to persevere when things get tough!

ICR books that highlight this:

• *Paddington*

• *Monster School: The Spooky Sleepover*

• *The Berenstain Bears: Gone Fishin’*

**3. To share/work together:**

• One of the best parts of the reading process with a beginning reader is the quality time spent together. It can become a positive partnership, such as when a child is stuck on a word or sounding out a phrase, the teacher/parent is there to help them out. This helps build a platform of trust and encourages teamwork to accomplish a goal.

• Most I Can Read! characters learn that sometimes they cannot overcome a challenge alone. For example, when Fancy Nancy needs her classmates to help plan a surprise party, she learns that friends helping friends is what makes everything better!

ICR books that highlight this:

• *Fancy Nancy and the Super Secret Surprise Party*

• *Splat the Cat: Splat and Seymour, Best Friends Forevermore*

• *Huff and Puff Have Too Much Stuff!*

**4. To be responsible:**

• Setting up a consistent time to read (such as in the afternoon after school, or before bedtime) is a wonderful way to build routine into your young learner’s life. It makes reading something to look forward to, and they know to pick out a book, get settled in, and be ready to read!

• These small habits become great foundations over time to take initiative and be responsible for small tasks on their own.

• The I Can Read! books have a vast variety of characters that showcase different scenarios where they learn how to be responsible. From taking home the classroom pet to learning new skills with friends, there are lots of stories that help teach responsibility to your beginning reader!

ICR books that highlight this:

•*Diary of a Worm: Nat the Gnat*

• *Pete the Cat: A Pet for Pete*

• *Pony Scouts: The Camping Trip*

**5. To be brave:**

• When your young reader is reading a story about a character who usually overcomes a fear or challenge, he or she also experiences how to deal with a challenge.

• The accomplished feeling of reading independently is often mimicked through the I Can Read! characters they are connecting with.

ICR books that highlight this:

• *Clark the Shark: Tooth Trouble*

• *Little Critter: Just a Special Day*

• *Pinkalicious: Tutu-rrific*

Posted on [1st April 2015](https://www.icanread.com/5-lessons-learn-can-read-books/) by [SupaduDev](https://www.icanread.com/author/supadudev/" \o "Posts by SupaduDev)