



# Five Finger Book Selection

Trying to read a book that's too hard for your child can be a frustrating experience. That's why it is important to make sure the books your child tries to read are matched to her/his skill level. Here's one way to tell if your child is trying to read a book that is too hard.

1. Choose any page in the book your child has selected.
2. Have your child begin reading.
3. Each time s/he comes to a word that s/he does not know or can't pronounce, teach her/him to bend one finger or put it down on the table.
4. If s/he puts five fingers down before the end of the page, this book is probably too hard for independent reading. If you're not sure, choose another page and try again.
5. You may want to put the book away at least for awhile and encourage your child to choose another book, or use the harder book to read together with your child. Your support and shared reading will help your child meet the challenge of unfamiliar words.
6. Teach your child to do this on her or his own, so he or she won't get discouraged by books that are too hard to read independently. Remember that it can take a lot of easy reading to make reading easy!

The library staff is always willing to help find great books on your child's reading level. Just ask us!