

Choosing Reading Materials and Activities for Your **Beginning Reader**

Learning to read is an exciting milestone for a child and his parents. However, it can be confusing and overwhelming to choose appropriate books for a new reader. To help parents, the Warren-Trumbull County Public Library has created three categories of easy reading books: Easy, 1st Reading Level, and 2nd Reading Level. This flyer gives a brief description of these categories as well as the skills a child should have for each reading level. Always ask a librarian if you have questions!



EASY READING LEVEL:

The books in this section (also known as **pre-emergent**) are identified by a red label with a white "E" on the spines. Easy level books are for beginning readers. They contain few words, large print, and large pictures.

Pre-Emergent Skills:

- Aware that text should be read from left to right
- Realizes that print words have meaning
- Knows pictures can help decode the words

1ST READING LEVEL:

First reading level, or **emergent**, books have blue-green labels with a white "1st" on the spine. These books have more text than easy books, yet still have repetition of vocabulary and larger print and text spacing.

Emergent Skills:

- Beginning to memorize sight words (a, an, the...)
- Sounding out the beginning and ending of simple words
- Starting to self-correct reading errors
- Beginning to use chunks: -s, -es, -ing, -er, etc.

2ND READING LEVEL:

These books, also called **early fluent** books, have a red label with a white "2nd" on the spine. You will notice that these books have smaller print, fewer pictures, and more advanced vocabulary.

Early Fluent Skills:

- Reads smoothly with few mistakes (stops sometimes to sound out words)
- Continues to use pictures (though less often) and context clues from the sentence to figure out the meaning of a story
- Starts to read with expression and is able to pause for most punctuation marks