

Selecting A Book For Your Child

How To Help Your Child Choose A Book At The Library Or Bookstore

When taking your child to the library or to a book store, it's important to consider several factors. You want your child to pick a book that includes some vocabulary that he/she knows so they feel successful with the story, but at the same time, the book should have some vocabulary that you can support your child in learning and will appropriately challenge your child. Keep in mind, the following points:

1. Reading Level There are three different Reading Levels.

Independent

The level at which your child can read a book with ease. Your child makes very few if any errors when reading and is able to answer questions about what they read. Your child can read the story alone and with confidence.

Instructional

The level at which your child needs support from the teacher, parent, or tutor. This level introduces children to new vocabulary. The greatest amount of progress occurs here. On average, students have between 2 and 5 mistakes per 100 words.

Frustration

The level at which the story is too difficult for the reader. There are more than 5 mistakes per 100 words

When helping your child to choose a book, you want your child to choose books in the Instructional Reading Level range.

How Do I Find My Child's Instructional Reading Level?

There are two ways to find your child's instructional reading level:

A. Here at GSD, Parent Reports for the STAR reading test are sent home at the beginning of the school year, as well as throughout the school year with report cards that explains your child's IRL (Instructional Reading Level) as well as ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development).

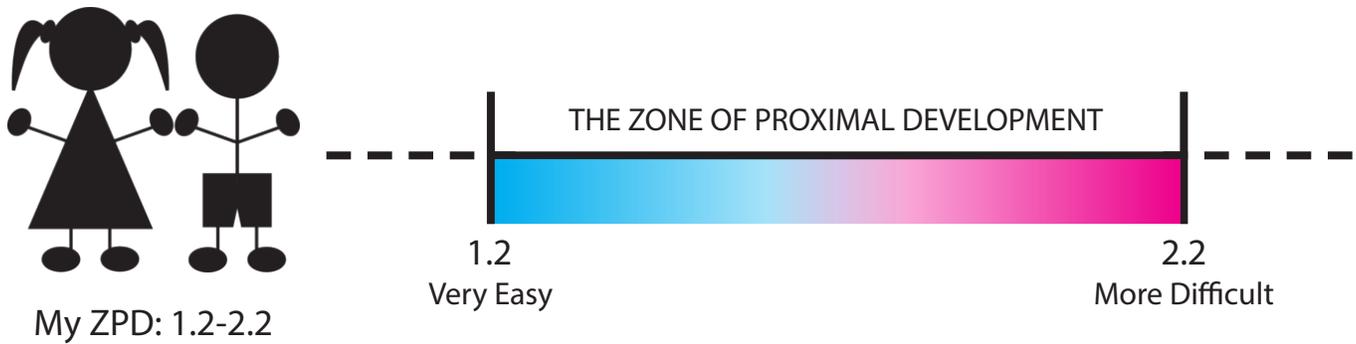
B. Also here at GSD, Instructional Reading Levels and ZPDs are included in your child's IEP.

2. Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)

The reading level range from which your child can choose.

ZPD is a range of reading levels with the lower number being the reading level which your child can read with little to no support and the higher number being the level at which your child would struggle.

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For example, if your child’s ZPD is 1.2-2.2, this means that books that are at a reading level of 1.2 would be very easy for your child to read, with a 2.2 being a more difficult book for your child to read.

When your child visits the library here at GSD, they are encouraged to check out books in their ZPD range. The Zone of Proximal Development can be found in IEP as well as the parent reports sent home throughout the year.

3. Interest Level

It’s important to keep in mind when choosing books the interest level that your child has. Interest levels for books are broken down into four different categories:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Lower Grades (K-3) | Middle Grade + (6-8) |
| Middle Grade (4-8) | Upper Grades (9-12). |

For older students such as middle school or high school students who are reading below grade level, taking a trip to the library or book store can become a very frustrating experience because he/she may feel as if the only books that include words they know are in the children’s section. However, if you follow student interest levels, you can better assist your child in choosing books that they can not only read but are also age appropriate.

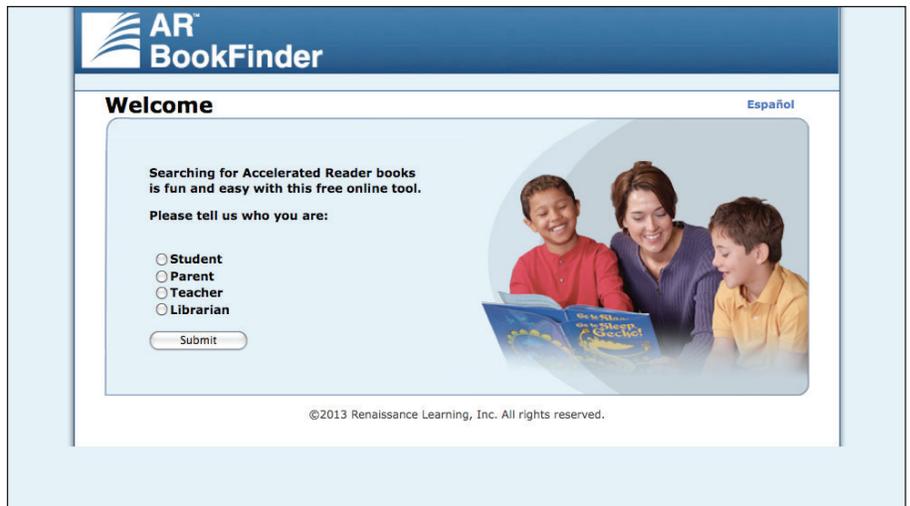
How Do You Find The Interest Level Of A Book?

A big help in determining your child’s interest level is to use www.arbookfind.com. From this website, you can type in the title of the book your child is interested in and determine if it matches not only their reading level but interest level as well. If you don’t have a particular book in mind, you can conduct an “Advanced Search,” select the interest level for your child, and you will get a comprehensive list of all the books that match your child’s interest level and reading level.

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When you know the TITLE of the book:

1. Open www.arbookfind.com (can be accessed from any computer or smart phone).
2. Choose "Parent," then Submit.
3. Type in the title of the book.
4. You will then see: the cover of the book, the author, Interest Level (IL), Book Level (BL), AR Points (how many Accelerated Reader points your child will earn if they pass the AR test for this book), as well as other information.



When you are looking for books but do not have a specific title in mind:

1. Open www.arbookfind.com.
2. Choose "Parent," then Submit.
3. Choose the "Advanced Search" tab.
4. Skip the top section of typing in a title.
5. Proceed to the Interest Level pull down tab and choose the interest level for your child.
6. Enter your Child's Reading Level in the ATOS Book Level. For example, if your child's ZPD is a 1.2-2.2 and your child is in 5th grade, you would select the interest level for Middle Grades (4-8) and then type in ATOS Book Level 1.2 through 2.2 .
7. You will receive a comprehensive list of books that match the criteria you entered which will then allow you to help your child choose not only books at his/her reading level but also that match their interest level.

Another exciting feature of the ARBookfind is that when you find a book your child is wanting to read, many books on the list have a link that will allow purchases of the book on Amazon. Just click on the "purchase on Amazon" link, and you will be redirected to the Amazon page with that specific book and pricing information.

If you prefer to purchase books from a bookstore rather than online, you can easily print the list on ARBookFind and take it with you on your next trip to your local bookstore!

For more tips regarding improving literacy and math skills, check out the Reading/Literacy Resource and Math Resource webpages at www.gsdweb.org.