

# Understanding Reading Levels: A Parent's Guide

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www.tutortyme.com/learning-corner

## 1. What Is a Reading Level?

A reading level helps match a child with books they can read with confidence. It reflects the complexity of the text—vocabulary, sentence structure, and content maturity—along with a child's ability to read and understand it. Reading levels help guide book selection and instruction, but they should never define a child's intelligence or potential.

## 2. Common Reading Level Systems

- **Fountas & Pinnell (A–Z):** Based on text structure and comprehension.
- **Lexile:** Numbers like 300L–1000L, based on word frequency and sentence length.
- **DRA:** Measures fluency and comprehension.
- **Grade-Level Equivalent:** Often written like 2.5 (2nd grade, 5th month).

## 3. Rough Comparison Chart

Grade	F&P Level	Lexile Range	DRA Level
1st	E–J	200L–500L	6–16
2nd	J–M	400L–650L	18–28
3rd	M–P	500L–800L	28–38
4th	P–S	650L–950L	38–40
5th	S–V	750L–1000L	40+

*\*These are approximate and can vary slightly by source.*

## 4. Choosing Books at Home

- Let your child pick books they enjoy—even if they seem too easy or too hard.
- Mix it up: independent, instructional, and just-for-fun reads.
- Rereading builds fluency and confidence.
- Read aloud often! Even big kids benefit from listening.

## 5. Remember This

Reading levels are tools — not labels. They don't define intelligence or potential.

Support your child with patience, encouragement, and lots of books they love.

Questions or support? Email: [info@tutortyme.com](mailto:info@tutortyme.com)  
Free resources: [www.tutortyme.com/learning-corner](http://www.tutortyme.com/learning-corner)

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