

“Alone reading” or “Together reading”? Here’s how to tell:

Start with a book that grabs your child’s attention!

Make sure your child is interested in the book – this matters more than almost anything! Sometimes when you are interested, they become interested, too. Then ask these questions to find out if your child should read it “alone” or if it’s better to read “together.”

1. Does my child figure out the words?

Have your child read a page or paragraph without your help. Count your child’s errors.

Alone reading: 0-1 mistakes: This book is just right for your child to read alone.

Together reading:

2-3 mistakes: Your child can read this one if you’re right there helping.

4-5 mistakes: Your child will need you to take turns reading.

5+ mistakes: Your child’s not ready to read this one alone yet; you’ll need to read it to your child for a little while before they take it on.



2. Does my child understand the story?

Ask your child this question: “What’s going on here?”

Alone reading: If your child’s answer seems thoughtful and accurate, and your child can make predictions about what might happen next, this is perfect for “alone reading.”

Together reading: If your child’s answer is close or your child is confused, stick with “together” reading.



3. Does my child sound like a storyteller?

Have your child re-read the same section and listen to how smooth it sounds. Does your child scoop words into phrases or read word-by-word? Does your child read with emotion? Does your child pay attention to punctuation?

Alone reading: Longer phrases, lots of emotion, attention to punctuation

Together reading: Word-by-word or short phrasing, limited emotion, limited attention to punctuation

