



Skill: Engage and enjoy

Before/During Reading

Learn the strategy

Reading tip: **Feeling frustrated?** **That's ok!**

- 1. Acknowledge difficulty:** Tell your child that this is hard! Knowing you understand, helps.
- 2. Ask questions:** Use gentle questions to coach your child to figure out the word, understand the story, or sound like a storyteller.
- 3. Answer your own question(s):** If your child is having trouble answering the question, model an answer yourself.
- 4. Encourage re-reading:** Invite your child to return to the beginning of the sentence and do it again, this time with their new knowledge.

We try our best to help young readers pick a book that's right for them. But even then, reading can feel hard and frustrating! Use these steps to help reading be little bit hard and a lot of possible and enjoyable.

Ask your child

To minimize frustration, help your child *pick the right book*:

- Do the words in that book look hard or easy?
- Is this a book you would want to read alone or is this one you could use my help with?
- How do you feel when reading this book?
- Does it feel too easy, just-right, or hard?

To help your child *monitor their frustration* as they read:

- Can we break that word into smaller words?
- Let's slow down and figure this word out. How can we do this?
- What's going on in the story right now? What do we need to understand?
- Look at the punctuation. Can you make your voice match what's going on here?

Interact & play

Make your own "Reading Stoplight." Cut out three circles. Color them red, yellow, and green.

As your child is reading, hold up the "green light" as you hear everything going along great. Then, hold up the "red light" when you want to stop and work on something. When your child backs up and rereads, hold up the "yellow light". When they start reading again, hold up the "green light."

Your child could also use the circles to signal to you when they need help.

Flagging trouble spots:

- Sometimes young readers try to choose chapter books even though they aren't quite ready for them. Instead of saying "no," ask questions to see if they can read and understand it. Then, say something like, *We can read it another day or read it as a "together book" where I'll do most of the reading and you can listen and follow along!*

Practice in the real world

Your child is probably trying to learn lots of new things, not just reading. In any activity--like sports, music lessons, or school subjects--there are bound to be frustrating moments.

Think about using this tip to help your child through any frustration. Acknowledge that learning something new is hard, use questions to help them get past their frustration, show them how to do it (if you can), and encourage your child to keep going!

My thoughts and questions 

