

The Five Finger Rule for Reading Will Help Your Child Find a 'Just-Right' Book This Summer

This easy technique can be helpful for early readers

Whether your child has already developed a love for reading or is still hesitant when it comes to picking out books, there is an easy way for them to choose “just right books” with your help or on their own. It’s called the Five Finger Rule!

Here’s how it works: Your child opens a book to the first page. They read the page and hold up one finger for every word they don’t know or can’t pronounce. The number of fingers they’re holding up by the end of the page tells them if the book is the right level:

- 0-1 fingers: It’s too easy.
- 2-3 fingers: It’s just right.
- 4-5 fingers: It’s too hard for independent reading (best read aloud with a buddy).

Two to three fingers is the sweet spot. If they’re holding up any more or less, that’s a clue that they should try to find another book if they are reading independently.

