

When Parents Should Be Concerned About Early Reading Skills

As the **parent, you play an important role in your child's development. Children are continually gaining important knowledge and skills** that will help them **learn to read, write, and succeed in school** when they get older. **It is important that you observe your child carefully and regularly share your observations with teachers, caregivers and health care providers.** **Sharing information** about skills and about possible concerns **will avoid later frustration**, if your child shows signs of struggle.

Early is Better

If your child is having difficulties learning, it's never too early to start looking for ways to help him or her experience success. Maybe you think your child should be able to do something that he or she is not yet doing. And maybe you think that, overall, your child's development is right on the mark. In either case, you can **take the lead to find out if your child would benefit from some extra or specially targeted help.** There are many people who share your goal of helping your child succeed. **You can ask a teacher, school, or pediatrician to point you in the right direction.** Remember, with the right instruction and support, almost all children can become successful readers right from the start. Here's what you can do next.

Be an observer.

Here are some things to watch out for as you observe your child:

- **Very small vocabulary and/or slow vocabulary growth.**
- **Often unable to find the right word and speaks in very short sentences.**
- **Even with age-appropriate instruction, struggles with learning the names of letters of the alphabet, matching letters to sounds, and rhyming.**
- **Difficulty remembering sequences such as numbers, alphabet, days of the week.**
- **Difficulty pronouncing simple words.**
- **Difficulty understanding simple directions and following routines.**
- **Difficulty learning colors and shapes.**
- **Extremely restless and easily distracted, compared to other children of the same age.**
- **Fine motor skills slow to develop. Has difficulty holding crayon or pencil, picking up small objects with fingers, copying basic shapes.**
- **Strong avoidance of certain activities, like storytelling and circle time.**

Resource: <http://www.getreadytoread.org/early-learning-childhood-basics/early-childhood/when-parents-are-concerned-about-their-childs-early-reading-skills>