

Reading Progression Through the Book Bands

Lilac book band

For children preparing to 'read'. Children are familiar with holding a book the correct way round. Children are learning to 'settle' to read. There are no words, just pictures. Children are encouraged to listen, understand and talk about what they can see (match spoken words to picture).

Pink book band (emerging)

Stage 30-50, working towards Stage 40-60

For children just starting to read. Children are getting used to reading from left to right and matching spoken words to written words. Usually no more than 10 pages with up to 5 words on a page.

Pink book band (developing)

Stage 40-60

Aligned to Phase 2 Letters and Sounds

- ✓ Locate title
- ✓ Open front cover
- ✓ Turn pages appropriately
- ✓ Understands that left page comes before right page
- ✓ Understand that we read from left to right
- ✓ Use meaning together with repeated language patterns (syntax) to predict the storyline
- ✓ Match spoken word to written word
- ✓ Use a few known words to assist own reading

Pink book band (secure)

Stage 40-60

Aligned to Phase 2 Letters and Sounds

- ✓ Locate title, open front cover, turn pages appropriately
- ✓ Understand that left page comes before right
- ✓ Use meaning together with repeated language patterns (syntax) and some letters to read simple text
- ✓ Match spoken word to written word (1:1 correspondence)
- ✓ Use a few known words to check own reading
- ✓ Read a simple CVC word in the text from left to right

Red book band

The second 'step-up the ladder' as children gain a little more confidence and may know some words by sight. Usually no more than 15 pages with 1 sentence per page.

Stage 40-60, working towards Stage 1

Aligned approximately with Phase 3 Letters and Sounds

- ✓ Locate and recall title
- ✓ Consolidate secure control of one-to-one matching on a wide range of texts
- ✓ Use known words to check and confirm reading

- ✓ Solve simple CVC words by blending phonemes from left to right and check for meaning and correct syntax i.e. does it make sense and sound right?
- ✓ Start to read more rhythmically or use phrasing while maintaining track of text
- ✓ Repeat words, phrases or sentences to check, confirm, modify own reading

Yellow book band

Children are beginning to read more varied sentence structures and taking some note of punctuation.

Usually no more than 15 pages with 1 or 2 sentences per page.

Working within Stage 1

Aligned with Phases 3/4 of Letters and Sounds

- ✓ Follow print with eyes, finger pointing only at points of difficulty
- ✓ Take more note of punctuation to support the use of grammar and oral language rhythms
- ✓ Cross-check all sources of information more quickly while reading
- ✓ Note familiar words and phonemes and use these to help with reading of unknown words
- ✓ Search for information in print to predict, confirm or attempt new words while reading
- ✓ Notice relationships between one text and another
- ✓ Predict in more detail

Blue book band

Children are becoming more confident at reading longer and more varied sentences.

Usually no more than 15 pages with 2 or 3 sentences per page.

Working within Stage 1

Aligned with Phase 4/5 of Letters and Sounds

- ✓ Move through text attending to meaning, print and sentence structure flexibly
- ✓ Self-correct more rapidly on the run
- ✓ Re-read to enhance phrasing and clarify precise meaning
- ✓ Solve new words using print information and understanding of the text to try alternative pronunciations
- ✓ Identify constituent parts of unfamiliar words to read correctly
- ✓ Manage a greater range of text genre
- ✓ Discuss content of the text in a manner which indicates precise meaning

Green book band

Children are starting to read quite fluently and take note of punctuation.

Usually about 20 pages with 3 or 4 sentences per page.

Working within Stage 1

Aligned with Phase 5 of Letters and Sounds

- ✓ Read fluently with attention to punctuation
- ✓ Solve new words using print detail while attending to meaning and syntax
- ✓ Track visually additional lines of print without difficulty
- ✓ Discuss and interpret character and plot more fully
- ✓ Use contents page and glossary in non-fiction books and locate information

Orange book band

Children are starting to read longer and more complex sentences and can understand a range of punctuation. Usually about 20 pages with 4 or 5 sentences per page.

Working towards Stage 2

Aligned with Phase 5/6 of Letters and Sounds

- ✓ Get started on fiction after briefer instructions about relying on illustrations
- ✓ Examine non-fiction layout and use the contents page to select which sections of book to read
- ✓ Read longer phrases and more complex sentences
- ✓ Attend to a range of punctuation
- ✓ Blend phonemes in unfamiliar words more fluently, cross checking with meaning and syntax
- ✓ Search for and use familiar syllables within words to read longer words
- ✓ Infer meaning from text, check information in text with illustrations, particularly non-fiction, and comment on content
- ✓ Begin to use appropriate terminology when discussing different types of text

Turquoise book band

Children can read complex sentences fairly fluently, taking note of punctuation. They use expression and do not rely on illustrations to help them. Usually about 20 pages with 4 or 5 sentences per page.

Working towards Stage 2

Aligned with Phase 5/6 of Letters and Sounds

- ✓ Extract meaning from the text while reading with less dependence on illustrations
- ✓ Approach different genres with increasing flexibility
- ✓ Use punctuation and layout to read with a greater range of expression and control
- ✓ Sustain reading through longer sentence structures and paragraphs
- ✓ Tackle a higher ratio of more complex words using known vocabulary, phonics knowledge and syllables
- ✓ Find a way around alphabetically ordered texts such as indexes, glossaries and dictionaries

Purple book band

Children might read silently or quietly at quite a rapid pace, taking note of punctuation. Usually about 25 pages with 5 to 10 sentences per page.

Working at Stage 2

Aligned with Phase 6 of Letters and Sounds

- ✓ Look through a variety of texts with growing independence to predict content, layout and story development
- ✓ Read silently or quietly at a more rapid pace, taking note of punctuation and using it to keep track of longer sentences
- ✓ Solve most unfamiliar words on the run by blending long vowel phonemes, recognising and using them in longer and more complex words
- ✓ Adapt to fiction, non-fiction or poetic language with growing flexibility
- ✓ Take a more conscious account of literacy effects used by fiction writers, and the formal language of different types of non-fiction
- ✓ Begin to make more conscious use of reading to extend speaking and writing vocabulary and syntax

Gold book band

Children might read silently or quietly at a rapid pace, taking note of punctuation. Usually about 25 pages with 5 to 10 sentences per page.

Working at Stage 2

Aligned with Phase 6 of Letters and Sounds

- ✓ Look through a variety of books with growing independence to predict content and story development, and make full use of non-fiction layout
- ✓ Read silently or quietly at a more rapid pace, taking note of punctuation and using it to keep track of longer sentences
- ✓ Solve most unfamiliar words on the run by blending long vowel phonemes, recognising and using them in longer and more complex words
- ✓ Adapt to fiction, non-fiction and poetic language with growing flexibility
- ✓ Take a more conscious account of literacy effects used by writers
- ✓ Make more conscious use of reading to extend speaking and writing vocabulary and syntax
- ✓ Locate and interpret information in non-fiction

White book band

Books might have chapters. Children will read silently most of the time. They are interested in longer texts which they can return to easily after a break. Usually no more than 30 pages and about 10 sentences per page.

Working at Stage 2, towards Stage 3

Letters and Sounds cease to be relevant

- ✓ Read silently most of the time
- ✓ Sustain interest in longer texts, returning to it easily after a break
- ✓ Use text more fully as a reference and as a model
- ✓ Search for and find information in texts more flexibly
- ✓ Notice the spelling of unfamiliar words and relate known words
- ✓ Show increased awareness of vocabulary and precise meaning
- ✓ Express reasoned opinions about what is read and compare texts
- ✓ Offer and discuss interpretations of text
- ✓ Comment on main characters and how they relate to each other
- ✓ Suggest alternatives or extensions to events and actions
- ✓ Discuss feelings created by stories
- ✓ Retelling of stories is balanced and clear

Lime book band

Books might have chapters. Children will read silently most of the time. They are interested in longer texts which they can return to easily after a break. Usually more than 30 pages.

Working at Stage 3

- ✓ Begin to read reflectively and to perceive meanings beyond the literal
- ✓ Refer to text to support own ideas
- ✓ Distinguish main points from examples; fact from opinion
- ✓ Devise key questions and words for searching and use several sources
- ✓ Begin to read in different ways for different purposes e.g. skimming for relevance, scanning for specific details, reflective and recursive reading for fuller comprehension
- ✓ Compare/contrast work from more than one source
- ✓ Read aloud with expression and intonation taking account of punctuation
- ✓ Pupils can refer to text layout and organisation
- ✓ Pupils show some awareness of the point of view of the author
- ✓ Beginning to sustain narrative and investigative reading

