

Helping Your Child Participate in Accelerated Reader



As a participant in a summer reading program using Accelerated Reader™ (AR™), your child soon will discover that reading can be a fun and engaging summer activity. By taking quizzes on books, your child will experience a sense of accomplishment, motivating her to keep reading all summer long. You can help your child have an enjoyable and successful experience in the summer reading program by following the routine described below.

Summer Reading Program Routine

- Help your child select and read books from the program site, public library, and/or home.
 - Search for interesting and appropriate books on www.arbookfind.com by book level, interest level, topic, and more.
 - Create and print a personalized booklist in the AR BookBag to take with you when selecting books.
 - Use the “Five-Finger Rule” to quickly assess whether a book is at an appropriate level. (If your child cannot read five words on a page, the book is too difficult.)
- Find time for reading practice. Make reading a priority and encourage your child to read at least 20 minutes per day.
- After your child finishes a book, take him to the program site to take a quiz. It’s important to take the quiz as soon as possible after reading the book while the details are still fresh.
- Review the book with your child before she takes the quiz. Discuss key details such as who, what, when, where, why, and how.
- If you read the book to your child, be available to read the quiz to him since some words may be above his reading level. (Do not help him answer the questions.)
- Taking a quiz typically takes less than 10 minutes. If Accelerated Reader is not offered through a summer school program, you may need to wait while your child takes a quiz.
- After the quiz, ask your child about it. Was the quiz easy or difficult? What was her score? Celebrate or provide encouragement as needed.

Helping Your Child with Book Selection



Children experience the most reading success when they find books on topics in which they're interested and that are at their appropriate reading levels. Help your child with book selection to ensure they find “Goldilocks” books—books that are neither too easy nor too difficult, but just right.

Searching for Books

Visit www.arbookfind.com to search for books. This site features over 110,000 books. There, you'll be able to search by book level, interest level, topic, and more. The site also includes lists of state recommended, librarian recommended, and award winners. In addition, you can create and print personalized booklists.

Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)

In independent literature-based reading, ZPD is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. It's important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension and within their ZPDs. However, ZPDs should be adjusted based on the needs of your child. Depending on how your summer reading program is set up, you may or may not know your child's reading level and/or zone of proximal development. If your child's summer reading program is using STAR Reading™, your child will receive a ZPD range after taking a STAR Reading test.

If you do not know your child's ZPD, begin by searching for books at his grade level (for example, 2.x books for children in second grade) or below. Use the “Five-Finger Rule” described to the right to determine if a book is at an appropriate book level for your child.

Five-Finger Rule

The “Five-Finger Rule” is a simple technique for checking if a book is at the right book level for your child to read independently. Follow these steps with your child:

- Have your child read one page from anywhere in the book.
- Each time she comes to a word she doesn't know, hold up a finger.
- If you're holding up three or fewer fingers when she's finished reading the page, the book should be at the right book level for her to read independently.
- If you're holding up four or five fingers, this book may be too difficult for your child to read on her own. Either read this book with your child or encourage her to select another book.
- If you're holding up six or more fingers, this book is too difficult. Help your child select another more appropriate book.
- Teach your child to use the “Five-Finger Rule” when self-selecting books.

Helping Your Child Succeed on Accelerated Reader Quizzes



Doing well on an Accelerated Reader™ Quiz is an indication that your child has read and understood a book. For maximum growth, encourage your child to aim for a score of 85% and higher on every quiz. If your child is struggling to meet the goal of 85%, the chart below offers some suggestions on how you can help your child improve.

Causes of Low Quiz Scores	Suggestions for Improving Quiz Scores
Your child read a book, but didn't take the quiz right away.	Whenever possible, your child should take a quiz soon after finishing a book. Always review the book with your child before he takes a quiz.
Your child took two or more quizzes, one right after the other.	Have your child review or re-read one book and take the quiz on it. Then move away from the computer to review or re-read the second book before taking the next quiz.
The book was too difficult for your child.	Check the book level (text difficulty) of selected books by using www.arbookfind.com or the "Five-Finger Rule" to determine if a book is at an appropriate book level for your child.
Your child read the book too quickly or not carefully enough.	Talk to your child about the book she's reading. Does she understand what is happening in it? If not, encourage her to re-read parts and slow down going forward.
Your child didn't quiz carefully.	Encourage your child to take his time on every quiz. He should read each question and all of the answer choices before selecting an answer.
Your child didn't enjoy the book.	Help your child find books that better match her individual interests. Use www.arbookfind.com to search by topic. Let your child know that it's okay to stop reading a book she doesn't like.

Student Quizzing Routine



Get Ready

- Make sure you remember and understood what you read before you take your quiz. Think about and, if you can, discuss these questions with a partner:
 - Who was in the book you read?
 - When and where did it take place?
 - What happened? At the beginning? Middle? End?
 - Why did it happen?
- Trouble answering?
 - Spend a few minutes reviewing your book. Re-read parts that will help you remember the details you've forgotten.

Get Set

- When you think you're ready to take a quiz, add your name to the sign-up list. You'll be called for your turn. (Or if there's a computer available, go to it.)
- Leave your book behind when you go to the computer.

Go

- At the computer, log in and take your quiz.
- Be sure to read the quiz questions and answer choices carefully.
- When done, look for your score onscreen.
- Pick up your TOPS Report to check your progress toward your goals.
- Good work! Don't forget to log off before leaving the computer.