

# Parent Connection

A Newsletter Full of Ideas to Help Your Child  
Become a Better Reader and Writer



## Tip

### Choosing Books at the Correct Reading Level

Do you ever wonder if the book your child is reading is too hard? Here are some ways to find out:

- Does your child struggle frequently while reading?
- Do you hear frequent excuses for avoiding reading?

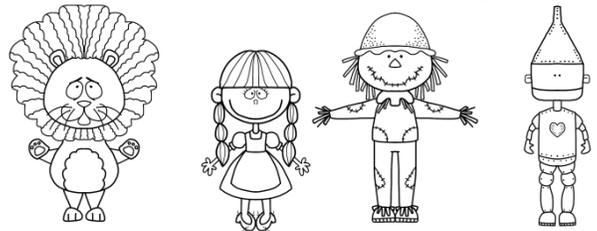
Try the Finger Test.

Ask your child to read aloud approximately 50 to 75 words from a book. Every time your child misses a word hold up a finger. If more than five fingers are up at the end of the passage, it may be too hard for your child to read fluently and meaningfully. You don't have to forget about the challenging book if it is one your child enjoys. This can be a book you read to your child.

## Free Online Resources

Most Americans have seen the movie version of many classic stories such as *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* and *Peter Pan*, but have never read the books. You'll be surprised at how amazing the original stories are. Even better, most of these books can be found for FREE online. Check out a few titles here:

<http://www.bookunitsteacher.com/parent/1.htm>



## Thinking Outside the Box

Reading the words to songs is a fantastic way for students to learn new words. If your child has musical talents, you may want to consider formal music or singing lessons. If you don't want to go all out, movie sing-alongs and karaoke are also great ways for children to read the words to songs.



## Activity to Try

Make a scrapbook of a family event such as a holiday get-together, vacation, sports event, or special outing.

Have your child create captions for the photos. These can be a paragraph write-up about the event or speech bubbles with dialogue saying what the person in the photo might have said at the moment the photo was taken.

