

Making Good Readers

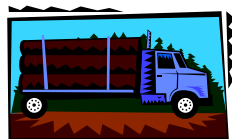
Here are two skills (of many) that make good readers in 1st and 2nd grade.

Test yourself. You can read these letters quickly.

S u M V p j B

That skill is letter naming. You can do it in less than 10 seconds. It means you are “fluent.” You know them so well you don’t have to think. Kids need to know letter names.

The second skill is onset sound recognition. It means you can pick out the very first sound in a word. Test yourself again. What are the first sounds in these words.



The first sounds are:

“f”

“t”

“d”

“b”

So play games with your children. Don’t make it a test or a chore. Play when you waiting in an office, riding around the city or getting dinner together. Make up other games, too.

ISPY A LETTER Find a letter somewhere in the room or on the boxes and cans you are using to get dinner together. Let the kids find it. Make it easy for them to find. Use a starting letter like E for Exit or P for Peas.

FIRST SOUND PUZZLES Give a clue to your puzzle like –

📖 Find something that tells us time and starts with “c” clock

📖 Find a food you spread on bread and starts with “b” butter

Give your kids turns to try and stump you too!

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