



Stages of Emergent Reading

Emergent readers are beginning readers who...

- Know their alphabet and at least some letter sounds
- Know the difference between a letter and a word
- Have an basic sense of story (beginning, middle, end)
- Are beginning to match spoken words with print
- May recognize words in some contexts and not in others

What reading behaviours do emergent readers exhibit?

- They may use their finger to point to words as they read.
- They read slowly (word by word).
- They use the picture clues as they read.
- They are learning to use beginning sounds to help solve harder words.

When reading with an emergent reader:

- Point to words and pictures as you read to students. This helps them begin to understand that words have meaning.
- Occasionally follow words with your finger to show students that we read from left to right and top to bottom.
- Read all the parts of a book with students. Make sure you read the cover page, authors/illustrators, and even dedications. It is important for students to know what the illustrator does, what the author does, and what a dedication is.
- Invite students to help you read a story, and read stories over and over. Repetition is key.
- Leave off words at the end of lines to see whether the student fills in the words.
- Engage students in back and forth conversations during book reading
- Play with magnetic letters. See how quickly students can put them alphabetical order while singing the alphabet song.
- Conduct a "Picture Walk" through the book print and guide students in a discussion of what could be going on based on the pictures.
- Practice matching letters to sound.
- Make three letter words using the magnetic board: such as cat, sat, mat.
- Have students practice sight words using the pre-primer word list