

## More resources to help select books for your children:

- Reading Rockets: a national public media literacy initiative offers information and resources on how young kids learn to read, why many struggle, and how caring adults can help.
- Commonsense Media for Parents: an organization that reviews and provides ratings for media and technology around suitability for children.
- PBS Kids for Parents: educational opportunities related to reading and education.



**Pierce County  
Library System**

Information & Imagination

**mypcls.org**  
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# Selecting BOOKS

for your children

Pierce County Library System's guide  
for parents to select books, movies  
and other materials for their children

As a public library, the Pierce County Library System provides a broad selection of books, movies and other materials for the diverse interests of all of the people it serves. Thank you for helping your children find books that align with your family's interests and values. You are your child's best guide to determine what's age and content appropriate for them to read and watch.



## Tips to help your children select books:

- Involve kids in selecting books.
- Find stories, themes or subject matter that meet your child's interests.
- Look for books that best match reading ability. Books that are too hard or too easy may not hold a child's interest. Try the Five Finger Rule when selecting a book with the following steps:
  - Have your child choose a book they are interested in reading.
  - Have them open to any page and read.
  - For every word they do not know, hold up a finger.
    - 0-1 fingers, the book is likely too easy.
    - 2-3 fingers, the book is likely a good fit.
    - 3-4 fingers, the book is one you might try.
    - 5 fingers, the book is likely too hard.
- Seek quality illustrations and text because children learn language and vocabulary skills best when they associate words with quality illustrations.



## Tools to help you with your children's book selections:

- Ask library staff for help making selections. Tell them your interests and they will help you find just what you want.
- Connect with us in-person, by phone or email the Ask us service for community resources and information:  
**[mypcls.org/get-started/ask-us](http://mypcls.org/get-started/ask-us)**
- Use booklists as a guide—many booklists are divided by grade level and topics.
- Explore the Library System's website with booklists by topics.
- Discover resources and book recommendations on the Library's website by age groups  
**[mypcls.org/learn-explore](http://mypcls.org/learn-explore):**
  - Birth to Five
  - Kids
  - Teens

## These resources through the Library's website will help you find books and materials for your children:

- Library Catalog: Filter any search results by age or select "more search options" to specifically search by "target audience."
- Novelist Plus K-8: Search this database to help kids and teens find the ideal book
  - Browse books by age and genre.
  - Search by title to learn more about the book and find read-alike options, or search by subjects or interests.
  - Use the advanced search to limit results by reading level, age, culture and more.



- OverDrive: Find e-books, downloadable audiobooks and online magazines. Visit the kids or teens pages to find books by age level. Use the advanced search and select by subject, interest level, reading levels and more.
- My Next Read **[forms.pcls.us/mynextread](http://forms.pcls.us/mynextread)**: Use this service to find books for your children. Share your children's reading interests and staff members will suggest great next reads.

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We look forward to your helping your child explore the library and discover great books, to build a lifetime of learning and reading enjoyment.