

“Why does my daughter keep bringing home books that she already knows how to read? How is she learning anything by reading the same thing over and over again?”



Familiar Reading:

Why your kids bring home books they can already read
(and how to make the best of them!)

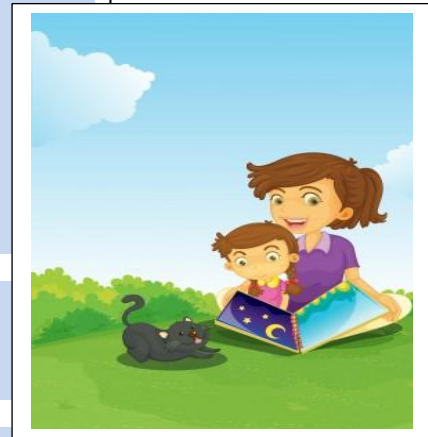
By [That Fun Reading Teacher](#)

Familiar books are books that the children have read before. It is important that they read books that are easy over and over again to practice reading fluently, which means that reading sounds smooth, not choppy.

Reading should sound like talking, with expression and intonation.

Children need to practice familiar books many times before their reading sounds quick, expressive and like spoken language.

Good fluency leads to good comprehension, an easier transition to the next reading level and greater confidence.



Join [That Fun Reading Teacher](#) on the next page for tips on how to make the most of Familiar Reading (and have a great time doing it!)

1

Adult Peek /
Overview

2

Picture Walk &
Talk Together

3

Take turns
reading for fun

4

Keep reading
time short

5

Brag!

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HOW TO MAKE THE BEST OF FAMILIAR BOOKS:

1) **Take a sneak peek yourself before you read it together**

This will enable you to give the child a brief overview of what the story is about, the characters' names and activities and a sense of where to direct the pre-reading conversation.

2) **Have a quick look through the pictures together before reading** the book, then ensure that your child knows to glance at the picture on each page before reading the words, and look back at it when needed.

Looking through all of the pictures prior to reading will give the reader a reminder of the entire story, from the beginning to the end, and will help him or her to predict what is coming up as he or she tackles the words and phrases on each page. It also helps refresh the reader's memory for new vocabulary and character's names to avoid stumbling on them in the middle of a sentence.

3) **Take turns reading by alternating pages.**

Your reading sets an example and the pace for your time together. It also helps you get through more stories in less time! Another perk? Reading comprehension. An experienced reader can bring characters to life with exaggerated voices, sound effects and expression.

Both partners can be listening to ensure that what is being read makes sense. Want to check if your little reader is paying attention? Throw in a little wacky humor at the end of a sentence when it's your turn to read something... (i.e. Once upon a time, there were three little pigs. The first little pig lived in a house made of gummy worms...)

4) **Keep reading time short and sweet!**

Goal number one is to ensure an enjoyment of books and reading. Lighthearted fun, praise for a great time together and some laughter is a positive outcome. For four to eight year olds? Five to twenty minutes per session, max! (And for goodness sakes, move around!)

5) **Brag.** Tell everyone you know how much fun you had reading together (in earshot of your little reader).

Repeat daily and supplement with story time.

