



Helping your child succeed with Accelerated Reader



Accelerated Reader™

Your child will be participating in a summer reading program using Accelerated Reader. Your child will see how fun summer reading can be, feel a sense of accomplishment after taking quizzes, and be motivated to continue reading all summer long. You can help your child succeed and enjoy this summer reading program by following the steps below.

Summer reading program routine

- Help your child choose and read books from the program site, public library, and/or home.
 - Search for interesting and appropriate books on AR BookFinder (www.arbookfind.com) by book level, interest level, topic, and more.
 - Create and print a personalized booklist in the AR BookBag to take with you when selecting books.
 - Use the “Five-Finger Rule” to quickly decide whether a book is at an appropriate level (If any given page of a book includes five words your child can’t read, the book is too difficult).
 - Find time for reading practice. Make reading a priority and encourage your child to read at least 20 minutes per day.
 - After your child finishes a book, take him to the program site to take a quiz. It’s important to take the quiz as soon as possible after reading the book while the details are still fresh.
- Review the book with your child before she takes the quiz. Discuss key details such as who, what, when, where, why, and how.
 - If you read the book to your child, be available to read the quiz to him since some words may be above his reading level. (Do not help him answer the questions.)
 - Taking a quiz typically takes less than 10 minutes. If Accelerated Reader is not offered through a summer school program, you may need to wait while your child takes a quiz.
 - After the quiz, ask your child about it. Was the quiz easy or difficult? What was her score? Celebrate or provide encouragement as needed.



For more information call **(800) 338-4204**.

Renaissance Learning | P.O. Box 8036 | Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-8036 | (800) 338-4204 | www.renlearn.com

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Helping your child choose books



Accelerated[™] Reader

Children enjoy reading books on topics they're interested in, at the appropriate reading level for them. Help your child choose "Goldilocks" books—books that aren't too easy and aren't too difficult, but just right.

Searching for books

Visit AR BookFinder at www.arbookfind.com to search for books. This site features over 150,000 titles. There, you'll be able to search by book level, interest level, topic, and more. The site also includes lists of state recommended, librarian recommended, and award-winning books. In addition, you can create and print personalized booklists.

Zone of proximal development (ZPD)

When children read independently, the range of books that will challenge them without frustrating them is called the zone of proximal development. It's important for children to choose books that are "just right" in their ZPD in order for them to remember what they read and get better at reading. ZPDs are different for each child. If your child is in a summer reading program that is using STAR Reading, your child will receive a ZPD range after taking a STAR Reading test. However, depending on the program, you may not know your child's ZPD or reading level.

If you don't know your child's ZPD, begin by looking for books at his grade level (for example, 2.x books for children in second grade) or below his grade level. Use the "Five-Finger Rule" to decide if your child will be able to read the book without getting frustrated by difficult words.



Five-Finger Rule

The "Five-Finger Rule" is a simple technique for checking if a book is at the right book level for your child to read independently. Follow these steps with your child:

- Have your child read one page from anywhere in the book.
- Each time she comes to a word she doesn't know, have your child hold up a finger.
- If your child is holding up three or fewer fingers when she's finished reading the page, the book should be at the right book level for her to read independently.
- If your child is holding up four or five fingers, this book may be too difficult for your child to read on her own. Either read this book with your child or encourage her to select another book.
- If your child is holding up six or more fingers, this book is too difficult. Help your child select another more appropriate book.
- Teach your child to use the "Five-Finger Rule" when choosing books.

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Helping your child succeed on Accelerated Reader Quizzes



Accelerated[™] Reader

When your child does well on an Accelerated Reader Quiz, it means they have read and understood a book. To get better at reading, your child should aim for a score of 85% or higher on each quiz. If your child is struggling to meet that goal, the chart below explains how you can help your child improve.



Causes of low quiz scores	Suggestions for improving quiz scores
Your child read a book, but didn't take the quiz right away.	Whenever possible, your child should take a quiz soon after finishing a book. Always review the book with your child before he takes a quiz.
Your child took two or more quizzes, one right after the other.	Have your child review or re-read one book and take the quiz on it. Then move away from the computer or tablet to review or re-read the second book before taking the next quiz.
The book was too difficult for your child.	Check the book level (text difficulty) of selected books by using AR BookFinder (www.arbookfind.com) or the "Five-Finger Rule" to determine if a book is at an appropriate book level for your child.
Your child read the book too quickly or not carefully enough.	Talk to your child about the book she's reading. Does she understand what is happening in it? If not, encourage her to re-read parts and slow down going forward.
Your child didn't quiz carefully.	Encourage your child to take his time on every quiz. He should read each question and all of the answer choices before selecting an answer.
Your child didn't enjoy the book.	Help your child find books that better match her interests. Use AR BookFinder (www.arbookfind.com) to search by topic. Let your child know that it's okay to stop reading a book she doesn't like.

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How to do well on quizzes



Accelerated Reader™

Follow these steps to make sure you are ready to take your quiz and get a good score. Don't rush! Take your time to think about what you've read, wait for a free computer or tablet to take your quiz on, and carefully read the quiz questions. Then celebrate your good score!

Get ready

- Make sure you remember and understand what you read before you go and take your quiz. Think about these questions. Talk with a partner if you can.
 - Who was in the book?
 - When and where did the story take place?
 - What happened in the story? At the beginning? The middle? The end?
 - Why did these things happen?
- Are you having trouble remembering and answering these questions?
 - Spend a few minutes re-reading parts of the book you forgot.

Get set

- When you are ready to take your quiz, put your name on the sign-up list. You'll be called when it's your turn. Or, if there is a computer or tablet available, go to it.
- Leave your book behind when you go take your test.



Go!

- On the computer or tablet, log in and take your quiz.
- Read the quiz questions and all of the answer choices carefully.
- When you're done, look for your score onscreen.
- Pick up your TOPS report from the printer. Are you closer to your goal?
- Good work! Don't forget to log off before you leave the computer or tablet.

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