

Core5® Home Activities

Reading Skills List

Use your child's Core5 level as a guide and build reading skills through these at home activities!

Level 1	Play games to practice rhyming and categorizing! Say a word, like log , and see if your child can come up with words that rhyme, like dog and hog . Or, give him a category, such as animals , and see how many he can think of.
Level 2	Play games to build sound awareness and vocabulary as you look for objects around you. Say a sound, like /m/, and see if your child can find something that starts with that sound. Or, describe an object (<i>I see a small, soft toy.</i>) and see if she can guess what it is!
Level 3	Continue to build sound awareness and vocabulary as you play at home. Count the sounds of objects around you (/d/-/i/-/sh/ has 3 sounds!), look for common sight words in books, and describe objects with interesting adjectives, like "I want an enormous cupcake!"
Level 4	Go on a sound treasure hunt. Pick a sound, like /p/, and see how many things your child can find that begin or end with that sound. Afterwards, have him describe these objects with adjectives, like "I found a shiny and flat pan!"
Level 5	Read together! Find consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) words, like lap and hat , and common sight words, like said and come , for her to try reading on her own. If she gets stuck on a CVC word, help by sounding it out, one sound at a time. When you finish reading, have your child tell you what the story was about!
Level 6	Practice spelling consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) words, like hop and run . Then, have your child tell you how the words are related (Hop and run are both actions!) or have him make a sentence with the words (It is fun to hop and run !).
Level 7	Write silly sentences together using new words and patterns. Try using word families, like -ack , and contractions (Don't pack a tack with my snack !). Have her read them back to you. Choose the best ones to act out or illustrate!
Level 8	Share notes with each other so that your child can practice reading and writing compound words (pancake) and words with vowel teams (boat, treat). Leave messages for him throughout the day, like "Pack the sunscreen !" or " Sweet dreams !"
Level 9	Practice as you cook! Choose a recipe and read it together. Have your child write and categorize the ingredients (dairy, grains, fruit). When you are done, have her tell someone else the steps of the recipe using sequence words, like first , then , and finally .

Level 10	Practice asking and answering questions as you talk about your day using words like <i>who</i> , <i>what</i> , <i>where</i> , <i>when</i> , <i>why</i> and <i>how</i> . Ask your child questions, such as, “ <i>What</i> did you eat for lunch?” and have her answer with complete sentences.
Level 11	Read aloud to your child and talk about what you read. Choose from a variety of reading material, such as poems, stories, and informational text. Ask your child questions about the big ideas as well as the details in each text.
Level 12	Look and listen for similes (<i>as fast as lightning</i>) and metaphors (<i>she is sunshine</i>) in books or movies, on television, and during conversations. Try to use them to describe things around you, like “The water on the pond sparkled <i>like diamonds!</i> ”
Level 13	Help your child figure out the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary by looking for clues in the surrounding words. Also, help him use clues to figure out the actual meaning of idioms, like “ <i>It’s raining cats and dogs.</i> ” It definitely doesn’t mean cats and dogs are raining from the sky!
Level 14	Practice analogies by talking about how words are related. Say a word and see how many related words your child can think of. For example, words related to <i>grass</i> include <i>green</i> , <i>living</i> , <i>soft</i> , and <i>outside</i> . These words all go with grass but in different ways!
Level 15	Look for different parts of speech in sentences: nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. Ask your child to explain the job of each one. An adjective, for example, tells more about a noun by answering <i>What kind? How many? or Which one?</i>
Level 16	Use sentence clues to understand multiple meaning words, like <i>light</i> and <i>pitcher</i> . You can also give your child clues to understand words with Latin roots and prefixes. For example, if <i>pre-</i> means <i>before</i> and <i>view</i> means <i>to see</i> , then <i>preview</i> must mean to <i>see before</i> .
Level 17	Practice comparing and contrasting by talking about how two things are the same and different. You can do this with two books, two movies, or two pictures, or even with places you have visited or people you know.
Level 18	Practice fluent reading by reading aloud together. Remind your child that readers use their voices to show meaning in sentences and poems.
Level 19	Look for words with Greek origins as you read with your child, especially in books about math, science, and history. Words like <i>astro naut</i> , <i>poly gon</i> , and <i>tele gram</i> are all made up of Greek word parts. See how many you can find!
Level 20	After reading part of a story or an informational text with your child, ask questions about what might happen next. Making predictions is a great way for your child to check for understanding!
Level 21	Continue to build your child’s reading skills after they complete Core5! Find time to read together and talk about what you have read. Continuing to practice strategies will make your child an even stronger reader!