



Reading Checkup: Upper Elementary

A Helpful Way to Evaluate Your Child's Progress as an Independent Reader

Excerpts and checkup taken from rif.org.

Use the reading checkup the way a doctor uses a growth chart. Look for a steady pattern of growth with a few lulls and spurts. That's a healthy sign that your child is doing well in reading. Age or grade ranges are listed for each checkup, but just as a guide.

Does your child...

1. Read different kinds of writing, such as news, information, poetry, and stories?
 - a. just stories
 - b. some variety
 - c. often
2. Talk about books and find meaning in the stories?
 - a. not yet
 - b. sometimes
 - c. often
3. Read for information and to learn new skills?
 - a. sometimes
 - b. more often
 - c. often
4. Read for pleasure, not just for school?
 - a. almost never
 - b. sometimes
 - c. often

Can your child...

1. Read aloud smoothly and with expression?
 - a. not yet
 - b. sometimes
 - c. often
2. Interpret what the writer is trying to say?
 - a. not yet
 - b. sometimes
 - c. often
3. Write longer and more interesting sentences than before?
 - a. not yet
 - b. sometimes
 - c. often
4. Spell most words correctly?
 - a. not yet
 - b. more & more
 - c. most of the time

Not to Worry! It's okay if your child...

1. Doesn't like to read aloud. Silent reading goes a lot faster.
2. Still reads picture books. Many are quite sophisticated and written for older readers.
3. Makes spelling mistakes. Help your child create a personal list of difficult words to spell.

If your answers are mostly As, your child may still be making the transition from an earlier stage. If the answers are mostly Bs, your child is in the middle of this stage. If you checked mostly Cs, your child is probably stepping up to the next level. If you have any concerns about your child's reading progress, please talk to your child's teacher.