

# Readiness Signs

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## *Foundations of Reading*

Before starting to teach your child to read, make sure he or she has some phonemic awareness.

- Does he have a concept of words and sentences?
- Has he had an abundance of exposure to language? (Do you read to him? Does he enjoy retelling stories or events back to you?)
- Does he speak accurately, clearly, and distinctly? (The more accurately a child speaks, the more easily he can learn phonics. If he has trouble, work with him.)
- Can he rhyme words?
- Can he clap simple rhythms? Can he clap syllables?
- Does he understand beginning and ending sounds?
- Can he mark letters, shapes, and sounds that are the same or different?
- Can your child see differences in letters printed side by side?
- Can he recognize uppercase and lowercase letters?

Our opinion is that the number-one reason children struggle with phonics is that they ***start too early***. If your child isn't ready, put the lessons away for a few months. Read plenty of books with your child and simply enjoy life.

An excellent book is [\*Language and Thinking for Young Children\*](#), by Ruth Beechick.