

Reading Levels Explained

The Bear Can Read suggests a starting reading level for each child based on your child's school stage and the time in the school year (as we mirror schools with our phonics and reading progression). The chart below shows the progression that most children follow in school. However, many children progress at a different pace so you can select a higher or lower starting reading level if you wish. If you know the book band level your child is reading at school, we would recommend that you start your child on the same one. You can easily find the book band level by looking on the back of one of the colour band books they bring home.



Age	Year Group (England and Scotland)	Reading stage	The Bear Can Read club	National Curriculum expectations of reading progress Book Band and Oxford Level reference	National test/check and private school assessment points
2-3	Nursery or at home	Pre-reading	Cub	NA	NA
3-4	Nursery or Pre-reception		Teddy	Lilac Level 1	4+ Assessments for many private schools
4-5	Reception P1	Learning to read	Koala	Pink Level 1+	Scottish National Standardised Assessments
				Red Level 2	
				Yellow Level 3	
5-6	Year 1 / P2		Honey Bear	Light Blue Level 4	End of Year 1 = Phonics Screening Check (June)
				Green Level 5	
				Orange Level 6	
6-7	Year 2 / P3		Panda	Turquoise Level 7	7+ Assessments for private schools (Nov - Jan) KSI National Test (May)
				Purple Level 8	
				Gold / White / Lime Levels 9-12	
7-8	Year 3 / P4	Grizzly	Brown Levels 8-11	Scotland National Standard Assessments Age	
			Grey Level 12-13		
8-9	Year 4 / P5	Independent reader	Mountain Bear	Dark Blue Levels 14-16	11+ entrance exam for grammar and private secondary schools taken towards the end of Y5 / start of Y6 KS2 National Tests / KS2 SATS taken in Y6