



FINDING YOUR CHILD'S STARTING BIN

Welcome! My Road to Reading is broken into 10 bins, each one building on a new reading skill. This checklist helps you and your child find the right place to start.

Go through the checklist below, starting with Bin 1. For each item, follow the script and see how your child responds to the example words. If your child gets through all words easily, move to the next bin. Stop at the bin where your child needs your help, pauses for longer than five seconds, or shows frustration. Back up to the bin before it; that's the right bin to start with. Starting a step before builds the confidence needed to tackle harder skills without feeling discouraged.

Bin 1

Initial Sounds

Show your child the words below. Point to the first letter in *map*. Say to your child: "What sound does this letter make?" Repeat with the first letter in *sit*, *top*, and *bet*.

map

sit

top

bet



If your child needs help with two words or more, they may not be ready for My Road to Reading just yet. Here are some ways to keep building a love of reading and sounds:

-  Try alphabet books. Look for ones that connect each letter to its sound. For example, a book with "B says /b/, like ball."
-  Play sound games in everyday moments. In the car or at the dinner table, try "I Spy" with sounds: "I spy something that starts with /m/."
-  Sing songs and read rhymes together. Rhymes and songs help children hear and play with sounds.

Come back and try this checklist again in a few months. Your librarian is always happy to help you find what's right for your child at any stage.

Bin 2

Short Vowels

Show your child the words below. Point to the first word *cap*. Say to your child: "Can you sound this word out for me?" Repeat with *set*, *mix*, *log*, and *rub*. Watch whether they need you to make each sound first.

cap

set

mix

log

rub



If your child struggles with two or more of these, start at Bin 1.

Bin 3

Consonant Blends

Show your child the words below. Point to the first word *trip*. Say to your child: "Can you read this word for me?" Repeat with *jump*, *crab*, *sled*, and *plant*.

trip**jump****crab****sled****plant**

If your child struggles with two or more of these, start at Bin 2.

**Bin 4**

Consonant Digraphs

Show your child the words below. Point to the first word *ship*. Say to your child: "Can you read this word for me?" Repeat with *chick*, *brush*, *lunch*, and *bath*.

ship**chick****brush****lunch****bath**

If your child struggles with two or more of these, start at Bin 3.

**Bin 5**

Silent E

Show your child the words below. Point to the first word *bike*. Say to your child: "Can you read this word for me?" Repeat with *hole*, *shape*, *tune* and *race*.

bike**hole****shape****tune****race**

If your child struggles with two or more of these, start at Bin 4.

**Bin 6**

Vowel Teams

Show your child the words below. Point to the first word *dream*. Say to your child: "Can you read this word for me?" Repeat with *coach*, *tail*, *chew*, and *bright*.

dream**coach****tail****chew****bright**

If your child struggles with two or more of these, start at Bin 5.



Bin 7

R-Controlled Vowels

Show your child the words below. Point to the first word *farm*. Say to your child: "Can you read this word for me?" Repeat with *bird*, *storm*, *nurse*, and *Bert*.

farm**bird****storm****nurse****Bert**

If your child struggles with two or more of these, start at Bin 6.

**Bin 8**

Diphthongs

Show your child the words below. Point to the first word *cow*. Say to your child: "Can you read this word for me?" Repeat with *toy*, *count*, *dawn*, and *launch*.

cow**toy****count****dawn****launch**

If your child struggles with two or more of these, start at Bin 7.

**Bin 9**

Syllables

Show your child the words below. Point to the first word *bandit*. Say to your child: "Can you read this word for me?" Repeat with *robot*, *thirsty*, *away*, and *picture*.

bandit**robot****thirsty****away****picture**

If your child struggles with two or more of these, start at Bin 8.

**Bin 10**

Word Knowledge

Show your child the words below. Point to the first word *unhelpful*. Say to your child: "Can you read this word for me?" Repeat with *distracting*, *expected*, *tried*, and *remember*.

unhelpful**distracting****expected****tried****remember**

If your child struggles with two or more of these, start at Bin 9.



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