

What Should Year 1 Children Read?

What should Year 1 children read?

Anything and everything! Once they discover what reading is and that they can do it, they will be insatiable.

Surprise them!

- Make sure the classroom is full of **interesting print materials** for them to read. Stick things on the walls, windows, furniture, doors, and definitely the English pin-up board - and change them often.
- If you are not the home room teacher, and talking to the home room teacher doesn't result in their agreement for you to post lots of materials, then find other ways ... Give out **papers** and/or **small printed booklets** which the children can pass around and tuck into their desks when they have other teachers.
- Use **post-it notes**. Walk around and stick a note on each desk - the children can practise reading them and pass them on or keep them in a notebook.
- **Flash cards** - the children could each have their own **small set of flash cards** in their desk to practise alone or with friends between lessons, and to use for games during your lessons. There could also be spare **sets of flash cards** on a desk or shelf in the classroom for extra practice.
- Don't only give them words that they can 'manage', let them have the fun of learning an occasional **big word**, something they are interested in. They could try recognising some or all of the phonic elements, and/or just memorise the shape of the word. (Make sure you always present words in lower case, not capitals, so they have shape.)

Challenge them!

Have competitions / games / quizzes to encourage them to remember the words that they see.

For example:

Flash cards - who can stand up and say the word, or run to the front and choose the right word, or hold up their own small matching card.

With flimsy paper flash cards - who can pick one up, say the word correctly, then crumple it and shoot it into a box or bin.

Remember:

- Don't let pandemonium rule, make sure you set the rules by making teams to have turns at running first etc.
- Discourage shouting out because it doesn't always prove that they know it and some children just sit back and don't try.
- Either make very durable laminated flash cards, or make lots of flimsy cheap disposable ones that you don't mind if they don't last long.

Posters

Have lots of frequently-changing materials on the walls / pin-up board, and then expect them to notice it.

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1. Have competitions / games / quizzes to make sure they have. They don't have to read every word on the posters.
2. Maybe you could ask if they have noticed any words starting with a particular sound or letter, or any word that has more than 5 letters, or even show them a picture and see if they have noticed the same or similar on a poster.
3. Pictures or information about the children (such as their name) could be hidden or included in the postings on the walls - anything that makes them want to look as soon as you put it up.

Booklets

Make small books and/or booklets with stories about the children. (*There is information about how to do this on [this page](#).*) If the books contain small pieces of information (e.g. what is their favourite colour / food) about individuals, you could have a quiz about this to encourage them to 'read' about each other.

Post-it notes

Write words (or sounds) on post-it notes (e.g. classroom items, things that are on the posters) and ask children to go and stick the on the right thing.

Reward Them

There are extensive notes about possible rewards at the bottom of the [Classroom Management](#) page, or you can download this file.