RAISING READERS

By Ms Siti Aisyah
National Library Board, Singapore
Programme Outline

- Child Development
- Raising Readers Basics
- Reader Types & Strategies
- Q&A
Child Development
Your child’s stage of development

**Initial reading or decoding (7-8 yrs)**
- “Glued to print”
- Read independently
- Sound out words one at a time and decode them slowly, carefully and accurately.
- Little room for deeper comprehension.

**Confirmation and fluency (8-9 yrs)**
- More confident in decoding.
- Reads more swiftly and fluently, more energy for greater comprehension.

From Dr Jeanne Chall’s “Six stages of reading development” (1983)
Child Development: School-going Children

- Starts formal school
- Spends long hours in school
- Mixes with peers
- Learns to accept authority and restrictions in school
- Starts to acquire habits in listening, observing, finding out, interpreting, reading and writing
- Develops competitive and cooperative skills
- Identifies interests, strengths and weaknesses
7
Raising Readers Basics
Things to Note

- Let them ‘lead’
- Make reading seem like an incidental task
- BELIEVE they can do it
- Be mindful that our reaction towards our children will affect their behaviour towards reading
#1 Let your child lead

- Select books based on your child’s interests
- Involve your child as you read
  - You ask questions, allow your child to ask questions
  - Get your child to participate in the story
- Allow your child to set the pace
Books aren’t just about their stories

- Thickness of a book or number of pages
- Font size
- Illustrations
- Characters
- Difficulty of vocabulary

Watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QHHx9VSeeEk
FIGURE 1. Text Features Checklist

☐ I want a book that . . .
☐ Is funny
☐ Is a mystery
☐ Has a problem that is like something I might face
☐ Is set in a faraway place
☐ Has just a few characters
☐ Has lots of characters
☐ Has short chapters
☐ Has long chapters
☐ Has lots of illustrations and/or photographs
☐ Is written like a magazine so you can skip around
☐ Is about made-up events and made-up people
☐ Is about real-life events or real people
☐ Has boys as central characters
☐ Has girls as central characters
☐ Is about things that happen now
☐ Is about things that have happened in the past
☐ Is about things that could happen in the future
☐ Has fewer than 80 pages
☐ Has between 80–150 pages
☐ Has more than 150 pages
☐ Other _____________________

#2 Create the literacy-rich home

- Variety of reading materials
  - Magazines
  - Audio books
- “Environmental” print – incidental reading
- Child sees you “reading your world” – role modelling
- Talk about books and stories
- Games and activities
#3 Get reading inspirations

- Go to the library
  - Hit the shelves
  - Ask a librarian

- Visit websites

![Goodreads](image1.png)

![The Children's Book Review](image2.png)
#4 Make reading interactive

- Play pretend: Get into the shoes of a character in your child’s favourite story
  - Ask: “What would you do if you were XXX character?”

- Use art & drawing: get your child to draw his favourite part/s of the story.

- Get creative: change parts of the story your child doesn’t like – make your own story

- Use rhyme and song
  - Eg. tongue twisters, poetry
“...the same activities that encourage readers in fact discourage non-readers, intimidating them and confirming their negative readers.”

- Amanda Zadora, “Wrestling with Reading”
Classification of Readers

- Avid
- Dormant
- Uncommitted
- Unmotivated
- Unskilled

Group 1 – Avid Readers

Characteristics

“I like reading and I always will.”

Enjoy reading

Like being identified as readers

Plan to read in the future

Strategies

- Stretch their reading appetite, use books with reading levels
- Encourage them to participate in book discussions
- Encourage them to read widely

“I like reading and I always will.”

Enjoy reading

Like being identified as readers

Plan to read in the future

Strategies

- Stretch their reading appetite, use books with reading levels
- Encourage them to participate in book discussions
- Encourage them to read widely
Get them more involved!

- Let them see what other children are saying about books:
  - Spaghetti Book Club
  - http://www.spaghettibookclub.org/
  - Book Reviews by kids for kids

- Help them write their own book reviews:
  - ReadWriteThink
  - http://www.read writethink.org
  - Discovereads
  - http://discovereads.sg
Group 2 – Dormant Readers

Characteristics

“I’m too busy right now.”

Have positive attitudes toward reading.

Like to read but don’t make time for it.

Will read for pleasure when they have the opportunity.

Strategies

- Make reading purposeful
- Use magazines
- Tap on current events
- Meet the author sessions
- Find out what their peers are reading
Magazines And Its Appeal

- Magazine features are short
- Grab your attention
- Entertaining
- Easy to read
- Lightweight and portable
- Offer variety
- Focus on readers’ special interests
- Children loves to receive mail
On the Panda Trail

The giant panda count is on! Scientists are searching China's forests for the black-and-white bears. Their findings will show how many wild pandas remain. The animals live only in China.

The panda census takes place about every 10 years. A census is a count of a population. The most recent count ended in 2003. Experts found 1,596 pandas during that search.

Counting the bears isn't easy. Scientists collect panda poop to get the scoop! They also look for chewed bamboo. Experts can track the bears by their bite marks.

The count will show how pandas are doing. The bears are endangered. Habitat loss is one of their biggest threats.

“We really hope ... we'll find more pandas,” Li Guiren told reporters. He is helping with the search. “That will mean [we have] made progress [or good change].”

YOU DECIDE!

The new kid at school has to sit by himself during lunch because he is allergic to some of the foods other kids eat. I feel bad for him and would like to become his friend. What should I do?
Group 3 – Uncommitted Readers

Characteristics

“I might be a reader, someday.”

Believe reading is boring

Only see reading as a skill.

Don’t care for it much but could grow to like it

Strategies

- Involve dialogic reading
- Use peer recommended reading materials
- Incorporate play
- Use non-fiction books
- Heavily illustrated books (graphic novels, diary forms, etc)
Incorporate play

- Use joke books and puzzles
- Charades
- Involve art, craft, drawing
- Tongue Twisters
- Come up with silly words

- If your child is more advanced:
  - Creative Writing game
Group 4 – Unmotivated Readers

Characteristics

“l’m never going to like reading.”

Express negative attitudes about people who read.

Actively dislike reading

Strategies

- Hook them with their interests
- Use multi-media formats
- Use ‘cool’ books and comics
Concerns Over Comics

- Kids look at pictures only, this will dull their interest in reading
- Improper language, use of slang
- Not ‘serious’ reading, pure entertainment
- Inappropriate messages eg. violence

However...
- Rise in educational comics/graphic novels
Possibilities...

“One of the things I am very grateful to my father for that, contrary to conventional educational principles, he allowed me to read comics. I think that is how I developed a love for English and reading.”

Bishop Desmond Tutu
1984 Nobel Peace Prize Winner
From Readers’ Digest...

Hooked on Comics

I was the kid who couldn’t read. Then Spider-Man and his pals let me in on the story

BY AHMET ZAPPA

My trouble with words became a serious problem for me when I was in Year Three. The class had started reading aloud, and every day I was panicked that I’d be called on. I’d cower at my desk, hoping my classmates would finish the passage before it was my turn.

I didn’t really know what I was experiencing back in the early 1980s, but now I know it was dyslexia. When I tried reading a paragraph, my eyes skipped whole sentences. When I wrote, I thought I was getting everything down on the paper – only to find that entire chunks and letters were missing.

Home was the one place I never felt self-conscious. As the son of musician Frank Zappa, I had anything but a normal childhood growing up in Los Angeles. Still, despite what people...
Comics And Its Appeal

- Less text makes reading more achievable
- Pictures enhances understanding

“The rhinoceros began to remove his skin”
Stories in comics seemed more interesting (more action)
Recommended Comics & Graphic Novels

Primary 1 & 2

Primary 3 & 4

Do refer to the booklists handed out to you for more relevant titles!
Group 5 – Unskilled Readers

**Characteristics**

- "I can’t read."
- Defines reading as “figuring out words.”
- Does not identify as a reader.

**Strategies**

- Use predictive pattern & wordless picture books
- Read and move
- Normalize mistakes
- Select interest-related books with little difficult vocabulary
- Get professional help
Use predictive pattern & wordless picture books

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Different types of fiction books

- Fantasy
- Thriller
- Horror
- Realistic Fiction
- Adventure
- Science Fiction
- Historical Fiction
Snapshot: How to Get Children Started on Chapter Books?

What to look for:

- Characters that the children can relate to, such as characters from *My Weird School Daze*.
- Illustrations and short chapters – the book will not seem so daunting. E.g. The *Magic Treehouse* series.
- Anthologies of short stories. E.g. The *Barefoot Book* series.
Snapshot: How to Get Children Started on Chapter Books?

What to do:

- Start with longer picture books.
- Read aloud the chapter book to your child – with a dramatic flair.
- Don’t read aloud too quickly.
- Make a habit of reading books together.
- Don’t replace picture books with chapter books.
- Introduce a book series.
Getting around the library
Understanding the children’s collection

- **Junior Lending Picture Books (JP)**
  - Picture books suitable for children aged 4-6.

- **Junior Simple Fiction (JS)**
  - Illustrated books suitable for children aged 6-9.

- **Junior Fiction (J)**
  - Chapter books suitable for children 10-12

- **Fairytales & Folktales (FOL)**

- **Singapore Collection (J SING)**
http://nlb.gov.sg
New to BookSG
Try out a whole new experience of browsing and reading NLB’s collection of Rare and special collections from National Library and British Library.
Recent additions include The Chou Sing Chu (周星衢) and The Youth Book Co. (青年) Collections.

Featured are selected resources available for access from libraries and home. For access to subscribed databases, a login is required.

Singapore Resources
Showcase of websites
- NewspaperSG
- Infopedia
- PictureSG

eDatabases
Business
- Singapore 1000
- ProQuest ABI/INFORM complete
- Business monitor online
- Factiva.com
- JSTOR : the scholarly journal archive

Science and Technology
- Engineering village
- ProQuest computing
- ProQuest science journals

eNewspapers
Singapore & International Newspapers
- TODAY
- The Business Times
- The Wall Street Journal
Select Your Login

User ID

Forgot your myLibrary ID?

Password

Forgot your password?

Remember me

Not yet a member?
You really should join

From 2 Feb 2015, all NLB members must use myLibrary ID to check library accounts or place reservation online.
If you do not have one, sign up for one now.
Tumblebook Library - Suitable for P1 & 2 students

1. Now that Hannah’s papa has decided to make the run for freedom, her patchwork quilt is not just a precious memento of Mama -- it’s a series of hidden clues that will guide them along the Underground Railroad to Canada. A fictionalized account of a fascinating oral history, THE PATCHWORK PATH tells the story of a two of the thousands who escaped a life of slavery and made the dangerous journey to freedom -- a story of courage, determination, and hope.

more news...
EBSCOhost Kids Search database - Suitable for P3 & 4 students
More databases and resources available on NLB’s eResources page!
Have you signed up for **myLibrary ID**?

Sign up now in 3 easy steps

- Online: [www.nlb.gov.sg/register](http://www.nlb.gov.sg/register)
- e-kiosk in the library

Be an NLB Member to use **myLibrary**

From 2 February 2015

**NLB Members with **myLibrary ID** can:**

- Check library accounts
- Reserve and renew items online
- Access eResources and eReads

**And enjoy:**

- Instant alerts to collect your reserved items
- Reminders on loans that are due
- Borrow library items for yourself and family with NLB Mobile app
THANK YOU!
Questions?

- Or drop us a question
- [http://nlb.gov.sg](http://nlb.gov.sg) > Contact Info

Contact Us

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- Book or Rent a Facility
- Find a Book in the library
- Find eResearch Resources
- Recommend a Title