

## Recognizing Reading Problems

Learning to read is a challenge for many kids, but most can become good readers if they get the right help. Parents have an important job in recognizing when a child is struggling and knowing how to find help.

### What to look for:

- Difficulty rhyming
- Difficulty hearing individual sounds
- Difficulty following directions
- Difficulty re-telling a story
- Struggles to sound out most words
- Avoids reading aloud

### What to do:

#### ■ Step 1: Meet with your child's teacher

Gather examples of your child's work that reflect your concerns. Ask the teacher for his/her observations and discuss what can be done at school and at home. Stay in touch with the teacher to monitor your child's progress.

#### ■ Step 2: Meet with the principal and/or reading specialist

If your child's performance does not improve, meet with other professionals in the building to see if there are classes, services, or other interventions available.

#### ■ Step 3: Get a referral for special education

If you have tried all interventions, request an evaluation. Talk to the principal to schedule this.

#### ■ Step 4: Get an evaluation

A professional team—which may include a school psychologist, a speech-language pathologist, or a reading specialist—gives your child a series of tests and determines whether s/he is eligible to receive special education services.

#### ■ Step 5: Determine eligibility

- If your child is found eligible for services, you and the school develop your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP), a plan that sets goals based on your child's specific learning needs and offers special services like small group instruction or assistive technology.
- If your child is not eligible, stay involved and keep talking to the teacher about your child's progress. You can also turn to private tutoring for extra support.

**Check out the *Assessment* section for more information on identifying reading problems:  
[www.ReadingRockets.org/article/c68](http://www.ReadingRockets.org/article/c68)**

Visit our sister sites, [ColorinColorado.org](http://ColorinColorado.org) and [LDOnLine.org](http://LDOnLine.org), for more information about learning.

