

Use your child's Core5 level as a guide and build reading skills through these at-home activities!

Level 1	Play games to practice rhyming and categorizing! Say a word, like <i>log</i> , and see if your child can come up with words that rhyme, like <i>dog</i> and <i>hog</i> . Or, give him a category, such as <i>animals</i> , and see how many he can think of.
Level 2	Play games to build sound awareness and vocabulary as you look for objects around you. Say a sound, like /m/, and see if your child can find something that starts with that sound. Or, tell her where an object is (I see something <i>tiny beside</i> the plant) and see if she can guess what it is!
Level 3	Continue to build sound awareness and vocabulary as you play at home. Count the sounds of objects around you (/d/-/i/-/sh/ has 3 sounds!), look for common sight words in books, and describe objects with interesting adjectives, like "I want an <i>enormous</i> cupcake!"
Level 4	Go on a sound treasure hunt. Pick a sound, like /p/, and see how many things your child can find that begin or end with that sound. Afterwards, have him describe these objects with adjectives, like "I found a <i>shiny</i> and <i>flat</i> pan!"
Level 5	Read together! Find consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) words, like <i>lap</i> and <i>hat</i> , and common sight words, like <i>said</i> and <i>come</i> , for her to try reading on her own. If she gets stuck on a CVC word, help by sounding it out, one sound at a time. When you finish reading, have your child tell you what the story was about!
Level 6	Practice spelling consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) words, like <i>hop</i> and <i>run</i> . Then, have your child tell you how the words are related (<i>Hop</i> and <i>run</i> are both actions!) or have him make a sentence with the words (It is fun to <i>hop</i> and <i>run</i> !).
Level 7	Write silly sentences together using new words and patterns. Try using word families, like <i>-ack</i> , and contractions (<i>Don't pack a tack</i> with my <i>snack</i> !). Have her read them back to you. Choose the best ones to act out or illustrate!
Level 8	Share notes with each other so that your child can practice reading and writing compound words (pancake) and words with vowel teams (boat, treat). Leave messages for him throughout the day, like "Pack the <i>sunscreen</i> !" or " <i>Sweet dreams</i> !"
Level 9	Practice as you cook! Choose a recipe and read it together. Have your child write and categorize the ingredients (dairy, grains, fruit). When you are done, have her tell someone else the steps of the recipe using sequence words, like <i>first</i> , <i>then</i> , and <i>finally</i> .

Level 10	Read long words together! If your child gets stuck, look for small word parts. For some words, like <i>basket</i> , read one syllable at a time (<i>bas-ket</i>). For other words, like <i>jumping</i> , look for the suffix (<i>-ing</i>) and base word (<i>jump</i>).
Level 11	Practice asking and answering questions as you talk about your day using words like <i>who</i> , <i>what</i> , <i>where</i> , <i>when</i> , <i>why</i> and <i>how</i> . Ask your child questions, such as, “ <i>What did you eat for lunch?</i> ” and have her answer with complete sentences.
Level 12	Look and listen for similes (<i>as fast as lightning</i>) and metaphors (<i>she is sunshine</i>) in books or movies, on television, and during conversations. Try to use them to describe things around you, like “ <i>The water on the pond sparkled like diamonds!</i> ”
Level 13	Help your child figure out the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary by looking for clues in the surrounding words. Also, help him use clues to figure out the actual meaning of idioms, like “ <i>It’s raining cats and dogs.</i> ” It definitely doesn’t mean cats and dogs are raining from the sky!
Level 14	Practice analogies by talking about how words are related. Say a word and see how many related words your child can think of. For example, words related to <i>grass</i> include <i>green</i> , <i>living</i> , <i>soft</i> , and <i>outside</i> . These words all go with grass but in different ways!
Level 15	Use sentence clues to understand multiple meaning words, like <i>light</i> and <i>pitcher</i> . You can also give your child clues to understand words with Latin roots and prefixes. For example, if <i>pre-</i> means <i>before</i> and <i>view</i> means <i>to see</i> , then <i>preview</i> must mean <i>to see before</i> .
Level 16	Practice comparing and contrasting by talking about how two things are the same and different. You can do this with two books, two movies, or two pictures, or even with places you have visited or people you know.
Level 17	Look for words with Greek origins as you read with your child, especially in books about math, science, and history. Words like <i>astro naut</i> , <i>poly gon</i> , and <i>tele gram</i> are all made up of Greek word parts. See how many you can find!
Level 18	Continue to build your child’s reading skills after they complete Core5! Find time to read together and talk about what you have read. Continuing to practice strategies will make your child an even stronger reader!