

# LEVEL 1: Readiness Assessment

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Level 1 emphasizes foundational skills in reading, writing, and arithmetic. Your child may begin Level 1 if 80-90% of the time the child:

## Reading

- Knows nearly all uppercase letters
- Knows nearly all lowercase letters
- Understands that letters represent sounds ("B" stands for /b/)

## Writing

- Possesses the ability to hold a pencil (or receives occupational therapy for fine-motor skills and adapted writing)

## Arithmetic

- Can count by rote to 10
- Can count a collection of 3 or more objects or can learn this readily
- Can identify simple shapes (triangle, circle) or can learn this readily

## Language and Cognitive

- Understands some direction words (behind, above, before, after)
- Can classify by one feature (color – all blue items here, red items there)
- Can make some comparisons (Which boy is taller?)
- Understands some concepts of time (yesterday, tomorrow, morning)
- Enjoys rhymes, songs, and books
- Can follow 1-2 step directions ("Sit down and place your hands in your lap.")
- Speaks with 3-5 word sentences (or receives speech/language therapy to assist with expressive language)

## Speech, Hearing, and Auditory Processing

- Can adjust his own rate or volume of speech
- Speaks with mostly intelligible sounds (or receives speech therapy for articulation)
- Can distinguish or "hear" a difference between spoken short *a* (apple) and long *a* (acorn) sounds or between consonant sounds /b/ and /f/.

### *If Less Than 80% in Most Areas:*

Administer the Level A, B, and C Readiness Assessments. Ear training and "phonemic awareness" are especially critical reading readiness skills. If your child seems close to reading readiness but is especially weak in these areas, consider working through Level B or C to provide an additional year (or accelerated half-year) of instruction with either curriculum.

### *If Greater Than 80% in Most Areas:*

Begin Level 1! This level will help you guide your child from ready-to-read to reading, and from ready-to-learn to learning with a formal, foundational course of study.