

# Oxford Reading Levels - Right reading level, right progress

Oxford Reading Levels is a system used to determine the level of many popular primary reading books from Oxford.

This chart shows how the levels map to children's typical progress through primary school, although different children will progress at different rates and reach different points at the end of each year.



England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	Oxford Reading Level	Book Band colour	Standard of the Oxford Reading Criterion Scale
Pre-reading/Nursery Up to 4 years old	Up to 4 years old	Up to 4 years old	Up to 4 years old	1	Lilac	Pre-reading standard
				1+	Pink	
Reception 4-5 years old	Primary 1 4-5 years old	Reception 4-5 years old	Primary 1 4-5 years old	1	Lilac	Curriculum expectation: Secure Standard 1 by end YR/P1 Oxford Reading Level 3
				1+	Pink	
				2	Red	
				3	Yellow	
				4	Light blue	
Year 1 5-6 years old	Primary 2 5-6 years old	Year 1 5-6 years old	Primary 2 5-6 years old	5	Green	Curriculum expectation: Secure Standard 2 by end Y1/P2 Oxford Reading Level 6
				6	Orange	
				7	Turquoise	
				8	Purple	
Year 2 6-7 years old	Primary 3 6-7 years old	Year 2 6-7 years old	Primary 3 6-7 years old	9	Gold	Curriculum expectation: Secure Standard 3 by end Y2/P3 Oxford Reading Level 10
				10	White	
				11	Lime	
				12	Lime +	
				8	Brown	
Year 3 7-8 years old	Primary 4 7-8 years old	Year 3 7-8 years old	Primary 4 7-8 years old	9	Curriculum expectation: Secure Standard 4 by end Y3 Oxford Reading Level 13	
				10		
				11		
				12		Grey
				13		
Year 4 8-9 years old	Primary 5 8-9 years old	Year 4 8-9 years old	Primary 5 8-9 years old	14	Curriculum expectation: Secure Standard 5 by end Y4 Oxford Reading Level 15	
				15		Dark blue
				16		
Year 5 9-10 years old	Primary 6 9-10 years old	Year 5 9-10 years old	Primary 6 9-10 years old	17	Curriculum expectation: Secure Standard 6 by end Y5 Oxford Reading Level 17	
				18		Dark red
Year 6 10-11 years old	Primary 7 10-11 years old	Year 6 10-11 years old	Primary 7 10-11 years old	19	Curriculum expectation: Secure Standard 7 by end Y6 Oxford Reading Level 19	
				20		

Oxford levelled books are most effectively used alongside other 'free reading books' – it doesn't have to be either/or!

**Why Levels 8–12 overlap?**  
One unique feature of Oxford Reading Levels is the consideration of text difficulty and children's emotional maturity. Having Levels 8-12 in Year 2/Primary 3, and in Year 3/Primary 4 means that we are able to provide suitable books for very capable 6–7 year olds and books that are less challenging but still age-appropriate for older children who are reluctant and/or slower to progress.

**Oxford Reading Level colours**  
In response to feedback from teachers, we have simplified our Oxford Reading Level colours. The levels themselves have not changed, so please make use of the Oxford Reading Level number to guide your choices. If you need to see the old colours, you can find them at:  
[www.oxfordprimary.com/oxfordreadinglevels](http://www.oxfordprimary.com/oxfordreadinglevels)