

Information on Lexiles for Parents

The Lexile Framework

The Lexile Framework® is a scientific approach to reading and text measurement. The Lexile scale is a developmental scale for reading ranging from below 200L for beginning readers and text to above 1700L for advanced readers and text. Your child's Lexile measure is linked to your child's Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) reading or English language arts score and is one indicator of your child's reading ability. The Lexile measure can be found on your child's TAKS Confidential Student Report.

Lexile measures allow you to be involved in your child's reading growth. When your child reads a text that is at the appropriate level, he or she is "targeted." What this means is that the text is not so difficult that it is frustrating but difficult enough to encourage reading progress. "Targeted" readers should be able to understand about 75% of what they read on their own.

Your child's Lexile measure does not translate specifically to a grade level. Within any classroom, there will be a range of readers and a range of materials they are reading. To say that some books are "just right" for seventh graders assumes that all seventh graders are reading at the same level. Lexiles track your child's reading progress over time, no matter what grade he or she is in.

Reading Expectations

Your child's Lexile measure on the TAKS reading or English language arts test provides you with additional information about how well your child reads. Because reading well is an important key to academic success, it is essential that your child keep improving his or her reading skills. Your child should be encouraged—both at home and at school—to read often and independently. Challenging him or her to read at a higher reading level, and providing help when necessary, will support your child's efforts to become a better reader.

Books

Your child should be able to read a variety of books independently. You may want to help him or her find books to read at or near his or her level. Reading just twenty minutes a day at home can help improve reading ability.

Book Search Activities

Once you know your child's Lexile measure, you can search the Lexile Book Database to find books that

are at or near his or her reading level. This database contains tens of thousands of fiction and nonfiction titles with Lexile measures. You can search by title or author, Lexile range, or keywords. You may search the Lexile Book Database online at www.Lexile.com to determine what books may be appropriate for your child.

You can find books within your child's Lexile reading range at your local library or bookstore. You can also talk with your child's teacher about what reading materials would benefit your child given his or her interests and needs. Your views on what materials are age appropriate for your child and the teacher's instructional goals are also vital issues you need to consider as you help your child improve in reading.

Vocabulary

To continually improve his or her reading level, your child needs to increase his or her vocabulary. Words are the basic elements of our language: to understand the meaning of a text, a reader must understand the words in that text and why the author is using them.

The more your child reads, the more his or her vocabulary will likely increase. However, there are things you can do at home to enhance this vocabulary growth. Examining some of the books your child reads at or near his or her level will give you a sense of the types of words he or she needs to understand. Then you might do the following activities, which are designed to give you some ideas about how you can help your child in this area.

Vocabulary Activities

1. Have your child keep a list of unknown words he or she has encountered while reading.
2. Help your child learn the definition of each word by looking it up online or in a print dictionary.
3. Use each word in a sentence and then ask your child to make up a sentence using the word.
4. Ask your child if the word is related to another word. (For example, the words *cavity* and *cave* both relate to a hollowed-out space.)
5. Ask your child if the word has a prefix or a suffix. Ask how the prefix or suffix changes the meaning of the root or base word.
6. Go to a website that provides tools for students to build their own crossword puzzles and word-search games.