



READ NC

LEXILE® MEASURES :: INFORMATION FOR LIBRARIANS

Young children and their parents may come into your library this summer and ask for help finding books in a Lexile range that match their interests. The following information will help you with these requests.

WHAT IS A LEXILE MEASURE?

A Lexile measure indicates the reading level of an individual or a book, and is represented as a number followed by an “L” (for example, 700L). By comparing a child’s Lexile measure with the Lexile measure of a book, you can decide whether its text demand will be too difficult, too easy or just right for the child’s reading ability. To best strengthen his or her reading skills, a child should read books within his or her Lexile range.

WHAT IS A CHILD’S RECOMMENDED LEXILE RANGE?

A child’s Lexile range spans from 100L below to 50L above his or her Lexile measure. When the child reads within his or her Lexile range, he or she should be able to comprehend enough of the book to make sense of it, while still being sufficiently challenged to maintain interest and learning.

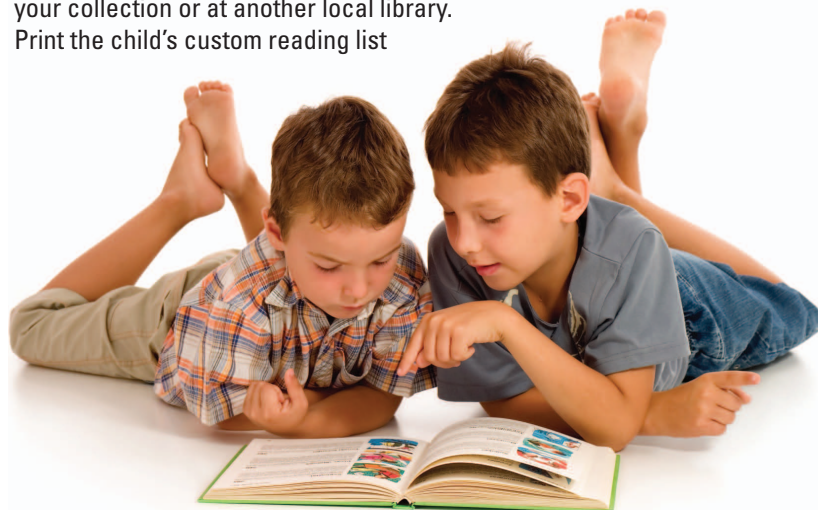
HOW DOES A CHILD GET A LEXILE MEASURE IN NORTH CAROLINA?

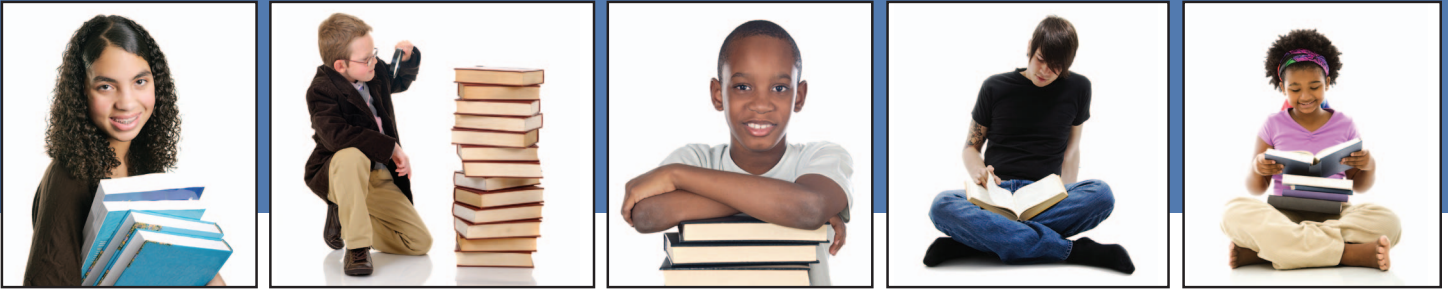
Children in grades 3-8 who take the end-of-grade reading tests – and high schoolers who take the English I end-of-course tests – receive a Lexile measure on their score reports. Most students will receive their Lexile measures the last week of school (or by mid-June).

HOW CAN YOU USE LEXILE MEASURES TO HELP A CHILD FIND BOOKS?

With the free “Find a Book” search tool, you can help a child select books that best match his or her reading ability (Lexile measure), interests and goals. It’s easy and fun to use!

1. Go to www.lexile.com/findabook.
2. Enter the child’s Lexile measure.
3. Have the child select interest categories.
4. View/refine search results. As you browse books that the child finds interesting, click the “Find in a Library” button next to the book title to check its availability in your collection or at another local library.
5. Print the child’s custom reading list





SHOULD A CHILD TRY TO READ BOOKS OUTSIDE OF HIS OR HER LEXILE RANGE?

A child can read books that are above or below his or her Lexile range. However, books that are below the child's Lexile range may offer little challenge in terms of new vocabulary and complex grammatical structures. Similarly, books that are above a child's Lexile range may be too challenging and discourage the reader.

Higher Lexile measures allow an advanced and enthusiastic reader to:

- be challenged with high-interest books above his or her Lexile level;
- seek help with a hard but interesting book; and
- find other books on the same subject but at a higher Lexile level.

Lower Lexile measures allow a struggling and reluctant reader to:

- build skills with less challenging books on topics of choice;
- select high-low books based on Lexile and developmental levels; and
- find other books on the same subject but at a lower Lexile level.

DOES A CHILD NEED A LEXILE MEASURE TO USE "FIND A BOOK?"

No. "Find a Book" can estimate a child's starting Lexile range based on his or her grade and comfort with the reading materials at that grade level. Then, based on the book search results, the child can further refine his or her Lexile range to select books that best support successful reading.

HOW IS THE LEXILE MEASURE OF A BOOK DETERMINED?

A book's Lexile measure is based on two characteristics: word frequency and sentence length. Once these factors are determined, Lexile-developer MetaMetrics® uses a proprietary scientific equation to assign a Lexile measure to the text, ranging from below 200L for beginning-reader text to above 1700L for more advanced text. More than 115,000 books have Lexile measures, and this number continues to grow.

IS A LEXILE MEASURE THE ONLY CRITERIA TO CONSIDER WHEN PICKING A BOOK?

A Lexile measure is a measure of text complexity only. It does not address the subject matter or text quality, age-appropriateness of the content or a reader's interests. The Lexile measure is one piece of information that you can use when selecting books.

Some books also have a Lexile code – a two-letter designation that appears before the Lexile measure (for example, AD580L) – to provide more information about the book's developmental appropriateness, reading difficulty, and common or intended usage. Visit www.Lexile.com for more information on Lexile codes.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ON LEXILE MEASURES?

For more information and to watch a six-minute video on Lexile measures, visit www.Lexile.com. The "News & Events" page also offers access to AASL's members-only Knowledge Quest newsletter, which includes an interview with MetaMetrics President Malbert Smith on using Lexile measures in the library.

