

Reading Levels Explained

The Bear Can Read suggests a starting reading level for each child based on your child's school stage and the time in the school year (as we mirror schools with our phonics progression). The chart below shows the book band progression that most children follow in school. However, many children progress at a different pace so you can select a higher or lower starting reading level if you wish. If you know the book band level your child is reading at school, we would recommend that you start your child on the same one. You can easily find the book band level by looking on the back of one of the colour band books they bring home.



Age	Year Group (England & Scotland)	The Bear Can Read Club	National Curriculum expectations of reading progress	National test/check and private school assessment points		
2 - 3	Nursery or at home	CUBS (Foundations)	NA	NA		
3 - 4	Nursery/Pre-Reception	TEDDY (First Steps)	Lilac	4+ Assessments for many private schools		
4 - 5	Reception P1	Koala (Early Reader)	Pink	Scottish National Standardised Assessments		
			Red			
			Yellow			
			Light Blue			
5 - 6	Year 1 P2	HONEY (Growing Reader)	Green	End of Year 1 = Phonics Screening Check (June)		
			Orange			
			Turquoise			
6 - 7	Year 2 P3	PANDA (Transitional Reader)	Purple	7+ Assessments for private schools (Nov-Jan) KSI National Test (May)		
			Gold		White	Lime Lime +
			Brown			
7 - 8	Year 3 P4	Grizzly (Independent Reader)	Grey	Scotland National Standard Assessments		

Reading Levels explained continued



After Grizzly club level, The Bear Can Read offers key milestone preparation boxes for children aged 8-11, designed to keep them on track for key curriculum targets at the end of Year 6. Each box is a one-off purchase.

Age	Year Group (England & Scotland)	The Bear Can Read Club	National Curriculum expectations of reading progress	National test/check and private school assessment points
8 - 9	Year 4	Grizzly plus	SATs Maths box	11+ entrance exam for grammar or private secondary schools. Taken towards the end of Y5/start of Y6 KS2 National Tests / Key Stage 2 SATs taken in Y6
			SATs English box	
			11+ Preparation coming soon	
9 - 10	Year 5	Grizzly plus	SATs Maths box	
			SATs English box	
			11+ Preparation coming soon	
10 - 11	Year 6	Grizzly Graduates	SATs Maths box	
			SATs English box	
			11+ Preparation coming soon	