



TIPS TO HELP YOU :

- Remember this is a skill learned over time.
- Start young.
- Pick 2-3 things you most want to avoid.
- Explain WHY you want them to choose appropriate books.
- Recognize that there will be surprises.
- Be a safe space to ask questions.
- Model how you look through a book.
- Give them plenty of good options.
- Show them that you do the same in your own media consumption.



MORE INFORMATION

*Find more information about these techniques at **Everyday Reading**, from **Janssen, a mom, former librarian, and teacher.***



<https://everyday-reading.com/how-to-help-your-child-choose-appropriate-books/>



MATHESON MEMORIAL LIBRARY
101 N. Wisconsin St, Elkhorn, WI 53121
262-723-2678 www.elkhorn.lib.wi.us

SO MANY BOOKS!

How do I choose what's right for my young reader?

As children age out of the E (early or elementary) areas - board books, picture books, etc. - which are organized by reading level or format, it can be difficult to make decisions on choosing books.

The public library serves a large and varied community and as young readers move into more independent reading they will have access to a wide range of materials intended for many different interests and maturity levels.

Every family has the responsibility and right to make decisions about their child's reading choices, while remembering that others also have the right to make different decisions.

GUIDE TO OUR COLLECTIONS

There's no hard and fast rule about what ages can or should read - this is something only you, as your child's responsible adult, can decide.

There are no universal standards for the organization of books across age ranges and, in a public library, parents should be aware that there may be materials that do not align with their family's choices and contain content they may find offensive, inappropriate, or concerning.

Our goal in arranging these materials is not to limit them by specific age ranges - an impossible task - but to make finding materials easier. Once kids have moved out of collections arranged by reading level or format, like easy readers and picture books, we organize materials into these general categories.

JUVENILE OR MIDDLE GRADE FICTION

Materials with a J for juvenile are generally aimed at third grade and up.

In the juvenile fiction you will find popular series and authors like Warriors, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Wings of Fire, and Dogman.



YOUNG TEEN

This collection is marked with a T and these materials are aimed at 5th grade and up, especially middle school.

You will find Alan Gratz, Barbara Dee, Hunger Games, and other titles here that tackle more mature issues and themes.

This collection also overlaps with the juvenile collection and you will find copies of popular series like Harry Potter, Percy Jackson, and Smile in both collections.

This collection is where materials shift from "reading level" to "genre" and young readers and their parents may want to spend more time selecting books that fit their family's choices.



YOUNG ADULT

These materials are all marked with YA. You will find some of them, like graphic novels or manga, also have a rating on the back of the book.

These materials cover a wide range of interests, experiences, and maturity levels and are aimed at young adult readers from 8th grade up to college and beyond!

Young adult materials often tackle serious, sensitive, and controversial topics.

