

# Stages of Reading

Reading is a complex process beginning from the pretend reader to the independent reader with a few stages in between. This overview will help you understand the various stages and behaviors of becoming a reader.

## **Pre-Reader**

- pretends to read
- holds the book the correct way
- turns pages
- focuses on the pictures
- makes connections when being read to (*I jump on the bed too.*)
- enjoys being read to
- may recognize typical signs (McDonalds, STOP and familiar store and restaurant signs)
- shows an interest in looking a books

## **Beginner**

- recognizes some words
- has preferences for specific stories
- knows that words have meaning
- uses own knowledge to make connections (*I like beans too, I like the fair too.*)
- infers logical meaning from pictures

## **Early Reader**

- reads simple books (*I like red, I like green, I like blue.*)
- reads familiar books using memory and some word decoding that have been read several times
- reads in a word by word fashion, fluency tends to be weak
- relies on sounding out (often using three sounds for a single syllable word)
- uses pictures to help
- focus is mainly on decoding beginning and ending sounds or on familiar words

## **Transitional**

- using a variety of strategies to decode (context, phonics, self-correcting, knowledge of conventions)
- self-corrects and re-reads to make sense of passage
- makes predictions and inferences
- enhanced knowledge and acquisition of known words
- scans for information
- reading is becoming much more fluent and the focus become comprehension and higher level thinking

## **Independent**

- reads for a variety of purposes (humor, entertainment, information,)
- is displaying reading confidence
- uses appropriate expression when reading aloud
- makes higher level connections
- reads more difficult material
- seldom makes mistakes
- sustained interest
- reads silently and fluently
- reads a wide variety of texts and genres