

## ***Ed Extras***

*Helpful information about learning brought to you by Reading Rockets, Colorín Colorado, and LD OnLine*

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## **Recognizing Reading Problems**

Learning to read is a challenge for many kids, but most can become good readers if they get the right help. Parents have an important job in recognizing when a child is struggling and knowing how to find help.

### **What to look for:**

- Difficulty rhyming
- Difficulty hearing individual sounds
- Difficulty following directions
- Difficulty re-telling a story
- Struggles to sound out most words
- Avoids reading aloud

### **What to do:**

- **Step 1: Meet with your child's teacher**  
Gather examples of your child's work that reflect your concerns. Ask the teacher for his/her observations and discuss what can be done at school and at home. Stay in touch with the teacher to monitor your child's progress.
- **Step 2: Meet with the principal and/or reading specialist**  
If your child's performance does not improve, meet with other professionals in the building to see if there are classes, services, or other interventions available.
- **Step 3: Get a referral for special education**  
If you have tried all interventions, request an evaluation. Talk to the principal to schedule this.
- **Step 4: Get an evaluation**  
A professional team – which may include a school psychologist, a speech-language pathologist, or a reading specialist – gives your child a series of tests and determines whether s/he is eligible to receive special education services.
- **Step 5: Determine eligibility**
  - If your child is found eligible for services, you and the school develop your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP), a plan that sets goals based on your child's specific learning needs and offers special services like small group instruction or assistive technology.
  - If your child is not eligible, stay involved and keep talking to the teacher about your child's progress. You can also turn to private tutoring for extra support.

**For more information on helping your kids succeed at reading, visit:**

**[www.ReadingRockets.org](http://www.ReadingRockets.org)**

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