

The Oxford Reading Criterion Scale and the Oxford Levels

The chart below shows where children are on the [Oxford Reading Criterion Scale](#) and which Oxford Levels we recommend they read. At these Oxford Levels, children should be capable of reading independently but with an element of challenge to stretch their skills. The Oxford Levels are used on Oxford's *Oxford Reading Tree*, *TreeTops* and *Project X* programmes.

This is for guidance only, as teachers will want to use their professional judgement in the selection of texts and children should be encouraged to read texts both above and beyond their 'comfort level'.

Age/Year Group	Bookband	Standard on the Oxford Reading Criterion Scale		Appropriate Oxford Level for reading
Reception/Primary 1, 4-5 years old	Lilac (pre-bookband) or Pink	Pre-reading		1 or 1+
	Pink or Red	1	developing	1+ or 2
	Yellow		advanced	3
	Light Blue		secure	4
Year 1/Primary 2, 5-6 years old	Light Blue or Green	2	developing	4 or 5
	Orange		advanced	6
	Turquoise or Purple		secure	7 or 8
Year 2/Primary 3 6-7 years old	Turquoise or Purple	3	developing	7 or 8
	Gold or white		advanced	9 or 10
	Lime		secure	11
Year 3/Primary 4, 7-8 years old	Brown or Grey	4	developing	11 or 12
	Grey		advanced	13
	Grey		secure	14
Year 4/Primary 5, 8-9 years old	Grey	5	developing	14
	Dark Blue		advanced	15
	Dark Blue		secure	16
Year 5/Primary 6, 9-10 years old	Dark Blue	6	developing	16
	Dark Red		advanced	17
	Dark Red		secure	18
Year 6/Primary 7, 10-11 years old	Dark Red	7	developing	18
	Dark Red		advanced	19
	Dark Red		secure	20

For more information on assessment and the wide range of resources available from Oxford University Press, head to one of their websites:

Oxford Primary Reading Assessment Handbook and Oxford Primary Writing Assessment Handbook:

<https://global.oup.com/education/content/primary/series/oxford-primary-english-assessment/?region=uk>



Project X (guided and independent reading for 4-11 year olds):

<https://global.oup.com/education/content/primary/series/projectx/?region=uk>



Oxford Reading Tree (independent reading for 4-7 year olds):

<https://global.oup.com/education/content/primary/series/oxford-reading-tree/?region=uk>



TreeTops (independent reading for 7-11 year olds):

<https://global.oup.com/education/content/primary/series/treetops/?region=uk>