

Reading Milestones Tracker (Age 5)

Check off what your child can do — see where to focus next

Milestone 1: Letter Recognition

- Recognizes 20–26 uppercase letters
- Recognizes 15–26 lowercase letters
- Names all letters in own first name
- Distinguishes letters from numbers

Milestone 2: Letter-Sound Knowledge

- Knows 15+ consonant sounds
- Knows 2–5 short vowel sounds
- Identifies beginning sound of spoken words
- Understands that letters represent sounds

Milestone 3: Phonological Awareness

- Recognizes rhyming words (cat/hat)
- Produces 2–3 rhyming words
- Claps syllables in 2–3 syllable words
- Blends onset and rime (/c/ + /at/ = cat)
- Segments beginning sounds ("cat starts with /k/")

Milestone 4: Print Awareness

- Holds book right-side up
- Knows print goes left to right
- Knows print goes top to bottom
- Distinguishes words from pictures

☐ Recognizes own name in print

Milestone 5: Early Decoding

- ☐ Reads CVC words (cat, dog, sun)
- ☐ Reads 5–20 sight words
- ☐ Reads simple patterned sentences
- ☐ Uses picture clues to support reading

When to Seek Support

- No letter recognition by start of kindergarten
- Cannot hear rhyming words after explicit teaching
- Avoids all print-related activities
- Family history of dyslexia or reading difficulties
- Difficulty with spoken language

Start today's lesson: [kindergartenstart.com/?src=pdf](https://www.kindergartenstart.com/?src=pdf)