

# The Goldilocks Strategy

A guide to help your child select books at his or her instructional level.

Ask your child these questions. If his/her answer is YES, the book is probably:

## Too Easy

- Have you read it lots of times before?
- Do you understand the story very well?
- Do you know almost every word?
- Can you read it smoothly?



## Just Right

- Is the book new to you?
- Do you understand a lot of the book?
- Are there just a few words in the book that you don't know?
- When you read, are some places smooth and some choppy?

## Too Hard

- Are there more than 5 words on a page you don't know?
- Are you confused about what is happening in most of this book?
- When you read, does it sound pretty choppy?
- Is everyone else busy and unable to help you?

"Lessons from Goldilocks: Somebody's Been Choosing My Books But I Can Make My Own Choices Now!"  
by Marilyn M. Ohlhausen and Mary Jepsen. The New Advocate, Vol. 5, No. 1, Winter 1992, p. 36  
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