

Little Reader

The Complete Parent & Caregiver Guide to Storytime Tracking, Milestones, and Early Literacy

Designed for Bedtime Routines, Busy Families, and 1,000 Books Journeys • Version 2.0



1. Welcome to Little Reader

Welcome! Little Reader is designed by parents and pediatric literacy advocates to make reading with your children joyful, effortless, and memorable. Unlike generic book trackers, Little Reader is built specifically for early childhood reading routines from infancy through early elementary school.

Here are the four core principles that guide Little Reader:

- **Zero Friction at Bedtime:** Storytime happens when everyone is tired. Logging a book takes just one or two taps, with no forced typing or camera scanning hassles.
- **Repetition is Celebrated:** Toddlers and young children naturally love reading their favorite books ten, twenty, or fifty times. Little Reader embraces re-reading as a cornerstone of language acquisition.
- **100% Offline & Private:** Your family's reading sessions, photos, and notes are saved directly on your device. It works without Wi-Fi in the nursery, in the car, or while traveling.
- **Keepsakes You Will Treasure:** Capture funny things your child says during stories, attach sweet storytime photos, and compile your memories into a real digital keepsake book.

Bedtime Tip

Reading just 15 minutes a day exposes a child to over 1,000,000 words a year! Little Reader helps you celebrate every single lap story, whether it lasts two minutes or twenty.



2. Installing the App on Your Phone & Tablet

Little Reader works directly in any browser and can be installed as an app on your home screen for instant full-screen access without going through an app store.

Installing on iPhone & iPad (Safari)

- **Step 1:** Open Little Reader in the Safari browser on your iPhone or iPad.
- **Step 2:** Tap the Share icon at the bottom of the screen (the box with an upward arrow ↗).
- **Step 3:** Scroll down and tap "Add to Home Screen".
- **Step 4:** Tap "Add" in the top right corner. The Little Reader icon will now appear on your home screen like any native app.

Installing on Android & Google Chrome

- **Step 1:** Open Little Reader in Chrome on your phone or tablet.

- **Step 2:** Tap the three dots menu icon in the top right corner.
- **Step 3:** Tap "Install App" or "Add to Home screen".

Using on PC or Mac

You can also use Little Reader on your computer or laptop browser. In Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, or Safari, you can bookmark the page or click the Install icon in the address bar.



3. Child Profiles & Tandem Sibling Mode

Every child has their own unique reading path. Little Reader makes it easy to track individual milestones or log group reading sessions.

Adding and Switching Children

- **Switching Active Child:** Tap your child's name and avatar in the top bar to instantly switch between siblings.
- **Adding a Profile:** Go to Settings > Child Profiles > "+ Add Child". Enter their name, birthdate, and choose a fun emoji avatar. If there are sample profiles already in place, delete them here.
- **Developmental Stages:** Little Reader calculates your child's age and recommends developmentally tailored reading tips (Sensory & Rhythm for babies, Interactive Naming for toddlers, Dialogic Comprehension for preschoolers, and Early Reading for kindergarteners).

Tandem Sibling Mode

When you sit down with multiple children at the same time to read a story, you don't need to log it twice!

- **Turn On Tandem Mode:** Tap the sibling icon in the top header (labeled "Tandem Mode"). When active, a purple badge appears in the top bar.
- **How It Works:** Every book logged while Tandem Mode is active counts toward both children's records, streaks, and milestone goals simultaneously.



4. The "Today" Tab (Your Daily Reading Hub)

The Today tab is the heartbeat of the app. It is designed so you can log, start timers, and check past storytimes in seconds.

Key Features on the Today Tab

- **Bedtime Staple • Last Read Card:** At the top of the feed, Little Reader remembers the last book you read. Tap the golden "1-Tap +1" button to instantly log another read without searching!
- **Lap Timer (Ambient Reading Timer):** Tap "Start Timer" when you begin reading. It softly tracks your lap time in the background. If you fall asleep, it automatically pauses at 30 minutes to save your device battery. Tap "Finish" when done to log the exact minutes read.

- **Centered "Find Book" Button:** A floating purple "Find Book" button is anchored comfortably above the bottom menu. Tap it anytime to search your shelves or catalog.
- **Chronological Day Feed:** Your sessions are grouped into Today, Yesterday, and past dates. Each book card displays the lifetime read count, the session sequence number, and duration.

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5. Finding & Adding Books to Your Library

Little Reader gives you three fast ways to find books. When you tap "Find Book" or the search bar, the search modal appears with dedicated mode tabs at the very top.

Search Mode	How to Use	Best For
Title / Author Search	Type 3+ letters of the title or author into the top bar. Searches both your home shelves and millions of titles in the OpenLibrary catalog.	Finding known picture books like "Goodnight Moon" or "Brown Bear".
ISBN Barcode Search	Switch to the "ISBN Number" tab at the top. Type the 10 or 13-digit number printed above or below the barcode on the back cover.	Looking up specific editions, boxed sets, or lesser-known titles with 100% accuracy.
Custom Unlisted Book	Tap "+ Add custom book" at the bottom of the search screen. Enter a title, optional author, and tap Save.	Homemade family stories, unlisted nursery readers, photo books, or school paperbacks.

Adding Custom Book Covers

Want to see your family's exact battered paperback cover? In the book detail view, tap "Take Photo of Cover" to snap a photo with your phone camera. Little Reader automatically compresses the image so your app stays fast.

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6. Logging Rich Memories & Storytime Details

When you select a book or tap "+ Log Read", the Log Entry screen allows you to capture as little or as much detail as you like.

- **Multiple Reads (+1, +2, +3):** Did your toddler demand you read "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" three times in a row? Tap the counter to log all three reads in one easy session.
- **Reading Duration:** Track how many minutes were spent reading together (defaults to your lap timer or preset bedtime duration).
- **Child's Reactions:** Tap expressive reaction tags to record how your child responded: Loved It, Bedtime Hit, Lost Interest, or create your own custom reactions in Settings!
- **Quotes from Storytime:** Children say the funniest, most poignant things while listening to stories. Type quotes into the "Memorable Quote" field to preserve their words forever.
- **Storytime Photo Keepsake:** Attach a photo of your child snuggled up with the book or pointing at their favorite illustration.
- **Parent Notes & Prompts:** Jot down notes about vocabulary words learned, favorite characters, or bedtime milestones.

- **Voice Memo/Child Babble:** Record audio up to 15 seconds to memorialize your reading session.



7. The "Shelves" Tab (Your Home Library)

The Shelves tab is your digital bookshelf, organizing your entire family collection in one place.

- **Shelf Tabs:** Easily switch between All Books, Favorites (books your child loves), and Wishlist (books you want to borrow or buy).
- **Filter by Tags:** Organize books with tags like "Bedtime", "Animals", "Rhymes", "Library Loan", or "Classics". Tap any tag chip to filter your shelf instantly.
- **Book Deep-Dive:** Tap any book card to view its total reads, first date read, most recent date read, past quotes, attached photos, and full reading history.



8. "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" Challenge

The "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" initiative is a nationally recognized early childhood challenge that encourages families to read 1,000 books together before kindergarten.

How Counting Works in Little Reader

A common question from parents is: "Does reading the same book over and over count?" YES! In pediatric literacy science, re-reading reinforces vocabulary and syntax. If you read the same beloved board book 50 times, it counts as 50 books toward your 1,000 book goal.

- **Visual Milestones:** Celebrate milestones at 25, 50, 100, 250, 500, 750, and 1,000 books!
- **Confetti Celebrations:** When your child crosses a milestone, celebratory confetti bursts across the screen to make them feel proud of their achievement.



9. The "Literacy" Tab & Dialogic Reading Coach

The Literacy tab provides research-backed guidance grounded in early pediatric speech-language pathology and Dialogic Reading (the PEER / CROWD method).

What is Dialogic Reading?

Rather than reading passively while a child listens silently, dialogic reading turns the book into a warm conversation where the child is the active storyteller and the parent is an attentive listener.

- **P - Prompt:** Ask an open-ended question about an illustration or character action.
- **E - Evaluate:** Gently acknowledge your child's answer ("Yes, that is a dog!").
- **E - Expand:** Add 1-2 words to their thought ("Yes, that is a big brown dog running fast!").
- **R - Repeat:** Encourage your child to repeat the expanded sentence with you.

Optional AI Storytime Coach (Gemini)

If you configure your free Google Gemini API key in Settings, Little Reader unlocks the AI Storytime Coach. Simply select any book from your shelf and tap "Generate Book-Specific Questions". Little

Reader will generate 3 customized interactive questions and expansion ideas tailored specifically to that book's plot, characters, and your child's age!

Privacy Promise

AI coaching is 100% optional. If you do not enter an API key, Little Reader functions entirely locally and privately on your phone, with no tracking and zero third-party calls.

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10. Compiling Your Keepsake eBook (ePub)

Childhood storytime passes by in the blink of an eye. Little Reader lets you transform your family's reading history into a permanent, beautifully formatted digital keepsake ebook (ePub file).

- **What It Contains:** Your child's name, avatar, milestone achievements, full list of favorite books, every captured child quote, and all storytime photos.
- **How to Export:** Go to Settings > "Export Keepsake eBook" > Tap "Compile Book".
- **Where to Read:** The downloaded `.epub` file opens immediately in Apple Books (iPhone/iPad/Mac), the Google Play Books app, Kindle, or Kobo readers. You can also print or email it to grandparents!

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11. Settings, Backup & Cloud Family Sync

Cloud Family Sync (Multi-Device Sharing)

Want both Mom and Dad, or a babysitter, to log books from their own phones?

- **Starting Sync:** On the primary phone, go to Settings > Cloud Family Sync > Tap "Activate Cloud Sync". Little Reader generates a 6-character Family Sync Code (e.g. `ABC123`).
- **Joining on Another Phone:** On the second phone, go to Settings > tap "Join Existing Family" > enter the 6-character code. Both devices will now stay synchronized!

Full Data Backup & Restore

You always have 100% ownership of your data. Under Settings > Data Management, tap "Export Full Backup (JSON)" to download an archive file of all your books, logs, notes, and photos. You can restore this archive onto any new device at any time. It is a good idea to export a full backup regularly to ensure you don't lose your precious memories.

App Updates & Offline Reading Status

Under Settings > "App Updates & Offline Reading", you will see the "● Offline Ready" badge confirming that your files and offline reading capabilities are active. Tap "Check for Latest App Version" anytime to ensure you have the newest features and improvements.

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12. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

- **Q: What if I search for a book by title and it isn't found?** A: Tap "ISBN Number" at the top of the search modal and enter the 10 or 13-digit number from the back cover. If it is an unlisted or homemade book, tap "+ Add custom book" to create it with your own title and photo.
- **Q: Does Little Reader require an active internet connection to work?** A: No! Little Reader is built to work 100% offline. All books, logs, timers, and photos are saved securely on your phone's internal storage.
- **Q: Can I edit or delete a reading log if I made a mistake?** A: Yes. On the Today tab, find the session card and tap "Edit" to modify the duration, reactions, quotes, or tap "Delete Session" to remove it.
- **Q: How does Night Mode work?** A: Tap the Moon/Sun icon in the top header. Night Mode turns the screen into a rich, deep OLED dark theme designed specifically to protect tired eyes and melatonin during dim bedtime storytime.

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13. Quick Reference Cheat Sheet

Goal / Action	Where to Tap	Shortcut / Tip
1-Tap Repeat Read	Top of Today Tab	Tap golden "1-Tap +1" on the Bedtime Staple card.
Find Any Book	Floating Purple Button	Centered "Find Book" button floats above bottom menu.
Search by ISBN	Search Modal Header	Tap the "ISBN Number" tab at the top of the modal.
Start Storytime Lap Timer	Today Tab Timer Bar	Tap "Start Timer". Auto-pauses at 30 min if you fall asleep.
Tandem Read for Siblings	Top Navigation Bar	Tap "Tandem Mode" so one read counts for all siblings.
Capture Funny Child Quote	Log Entry Screen	Type words in "Memorable Quote" field while logging.
Filter by Tag (e.g. Bedtime)	Shelves Tab	Tap any tag chip at the top of your shelves.
Export Keepsake eBook	Settings Tab	Tap "Compile Book" to download a full ePub for Apple Books.
Sync Across Two Phones	Settings Tab	Activate Cloud Family Sync and share the 6-character code.
OLED Bedtime Dark Mode	Top Right Header	Tap the Moon / Sun icon to switch lighting modes.

Happy Storytime! Thank you for reading with your little ones every day.