

Book band colours chart (UK)

The 16 colours in order, easiest first. Years and ages are Oxford Owl's guide; publishers and schools differ.

COLOUR AND BAND	SCHOOL YEAR	AGE	BOOKS AT THIS BAND
Lilac Band 0	Nursery	**3–4**	No words, only pictures
Pink Band 1	Reception	**4–5**	1–5 words a page
Red Band 2	Reception	**4–5**	5–10 words a page
Yellow Band 3	Reception	**4–5**	10–15 words a page
Blue Band 4	Reception and Year 1	**4–6**	15–20 words a page
Green Band 5	Year 1	**5–6**	15–20 words a page
Orange Band 6	Year 1	**5–6**	20–25 words a page
Turquoise Band 7	Year 1 and Year 2	**5–6**	About 20–25 words a page
Purple Band 8	Years 2 and 3	**6–7**	25–30 words a page
Gold Band 9	Years 2 and 3	**6–8**	About 1,190–1,530 words a book
White Band 10	Years 2 and 3	**6–8**	About 1,190–1,530 words a book
Lime Band 11	Years 2 and 3	**6–8**	About 1,980–2,640 words a book
Brown Band 12	Years 2 and 3	**6–8**	100–150 words a page
Grey Band 13	Years 2 to 4	**6–9**	150–200 words a page
Dark Blue Band 14	Years 4 and 5	**8–10**	200–300 words a page
Dark Red Band 15	Years 5 and 6	**9–11**	200–300 words a page

Beyond the colours: any book they love. Reading for pleasure has no band. Library books, comics and favourites count at every step.

School years and ages: Oxford Owl, checked 30 October 2026; above Lime, 6 November 2026. Band numbers and “books at this band”: BookLife, checked 19 November 2026; it calls band 15 Burgundy and adds Black as band 16. Our own summary, not a publisher's chart. Your child's teacher chooses their band. **litsee.com/guides/book-bands**