McGuffey Primer

Please review the FAQs and contact us if you find a problem.

This is a continuation of Getting Ready 1, the beginning of the reading portion after learning the alphabet sounds. They will be reading McGuffey’s Eclectic Primer, Revised Edition. Before beginning this page, your child should be able to recognized all of the letters of the alphabet, knowing their names and basic sounds. Just like with the alphabet, if your child isn’t getting it, take a break and come back to it. Also, consider trying the phonics section which begins on Day 60 in Getting Ready 2 if your child isn’t getting sight words and is at least five years old; a dyslexic child will do better with phonics than with the sight reading. They will always have to know sight words, so this isn’t something to avoid completely. My dyslexic boys struggled with sight reading, so we moved on to phonics after awhile. Then we went back and went through the McGuffey parts of the Learn to Read with EP book. They both enjoy reading now. I’m using the phonics section of the book to work on their spelling, having them read a section of words, write them, read what they wrote, and then check it against the book.

If you prefer to work offline, the daily words and Primer lessons can be found in our book, Learn to Read with EP. The book also contains all of the reading lessons for Getting Ready 2. Want to go completely offline? Try the Genesis Curriculum version of this course for ages 4 and 5.

Day 1 (172)

- Now we are going to start reading our first book! You will need to have your child go over the day’s words three times a day–maybe after breakfast, after lunch and after dinner. It will only take two minutes. After the third time then your child will read the page for that day.
  1. Look at your words. The program will show your child each word once and then show them randomly. That means a word may repeat. It changes its appearance slightly to show that you can click it again. This is for practicing. After several times a check mark will appear. That’s how you end the lesson. Feel free to end this first lesson before they know all the words perfectly.
  2. Look at your words.
  3. Look at your words and read lesson 1. Your child should be able to recognize the words before reading the lesson. You or an older sibling needs to listen to your child read the lesson out loud from the online book each day.
  4. Congratulations on reading your first story!
  5. Your child is learning to read by sight. You are not teaching your child phonics. You don’t have to teach your child to sound out the words. Your child is to learn to identify a
word by looking at it. That's how you are reading this right now. You don't sound it out. You just know what it says. Your child will learn phonics in Getting Ready 2. Doing it this way will give your child more speed and fluency.

Day 2 (173)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Put the starting sound on the word. Even though we aren't learning phonics right now, your child did learn the phonetic sounds of the alphabet. If your child is stuck on a word, the first thing to try is to ask your child what letter does the word start with and what sound does it make. Maybe making that sound will trigger the memory of what the word is.
4. Look at your words and read lesson II.
5. Put shapes on the gingerbread man.

Day 3 (174)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson III.
4. Mix the colors.

Day 4 (175)
- Remember that 1, 2 and 3 need to take place at three different times during the day.
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Put the starting sound on the word.
4. Look at your words and read lesson IV.
5. You are learning to read! That's wonderful!

Day 5 (176)
1. Today is review, lesson V. Don't worry about the cursive. Just skip over it.
2. Listen to a color story.
3. Paint a picture. Use as many colors as you can!

Day 6 (177)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson VI. If your child is stuck on a word, another way to help is to remind your child that the story matches the picture. Maybe the picture has a clue as to what the word is.
4. Build a snowman.

Day 7 (178)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Put the starting sound on the word.
4. Look at your words and read lesson VII.
5. Play a game.

Day 8 (179)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson VIII. Another help in reading the right word is to ask your child if what he just read makes sense. If he said a word that doesn’t make sense, then that can’t be the right word. What would make sense?

4. Count the rabbits.

Day 9 (180)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson IX.
4. Make music. Click “forth” twice and then choose “Horton Hears a Tune.”

Day 10 (181)
1. Read lesson X. Choose one sentence to read again fast!
2. Put together this puzzle. First you have to make the pieces right-side up! To turn the pieces click on them and then click on an arrow key.
3. Play this counting game.
4. Watch this counting song.

Day 11 (182)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson XI.
4. Play Monkey Jump.

Day 12 (183)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson XII.
4. Make the chickens dance.

Day 13 (184)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson XIII.
4. Can you count underwater?

Day 14 (185)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson XIV.
4. Sort the colors.

Day 15 (186*)
1. Read Lesson XV. Choose one sentence to read again fast!
2. Watch this counting video.
3. Play lemonade stand.
4. Make a craft.
   • five fish in a bowl
   • bunch of ideas

Day 16 (187)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Put the starting sound on the word.
4. Look at your words and read lesson XVI.
5. Watch the alphabet video.
Day 17 (188)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson XVII.
4. Create an ocean.

Day 18 (189)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson XVIII.
4. This takes a long time to load, but you can create nature art.

Day 19 (190)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson XIX.
4. Be a bug catcher.

Day 20 (191*)
1. Read lesson XX. Choose one sentence to read again fast! (Parent: If you are having to tell your child many words, please consider stopping and going back to the last lesson he can read confidently and start from there. It’s fine to have to point out a wrong word or to have to remind them by asking, “What letter does it start with?” to help them figure it out. You can also encourage your child to use the picture for clues.)
2. Watch this counting video.
3. Play this jungle counting game.
4. *Put together this caterpillar. (craft)

Day 21 (192)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Put the starting sound on the word.
4. Look at your words and read lesson XXI.
5. Make music. Click and drag the trees up and down to change their notes.

Day 22 (193)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Put the starting sound on the word.
4. Look at your words and read lesson XXII.
5. Play shape shadows.

Day 23 (194)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson XXIII.
4. Count the fish.

Day 24 (195)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson XXIV.
4. Create a forest.

Day 25 (196)
1. Read lesson XXV. Choose one sentence to read again fast!
2. Watch this counting video.
3. Play this farm counting game.
4. Watch the animal sounds video.

Day 26 (197)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson XXVI.
4. Can you find your way through the maze?

Day 27 (198)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson XXVII.
4. Can you match the shapes?

Day 28 (199)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson XXVIII.
4. Play underwater counting.

Day 29 (200)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson XXIX.
4. Sort the colors.

Day 30 (201)
1. Read lesson XXX. Choose one sentence to read again fast! (Parent: If you are having to tell your child several words, please consider stopping and going back to the last lesson he can read confidently and start from there. It’s fine to have to point out a wrong word or to have to remind them by asking, “What letter does it start with?” to help them figure it out. You can also encourage your child to use the picture for clues.)
2. Play this forest counting game.
3. Put together this puzzle.
4. Watch this counting video.

Day 31 (202)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson XXXI.
4. Can you make matches? (If you want to try a harder game, here’s one with more cards. Choose Easy.)

Day 32 (203)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson XXXII.
4. Listen to the instruments.

Day 33 (204)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson XXXIII.
4. Count the bunnies and find the match.
Day 34 (205)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson XXXIV.
4. Create a jungle.

Day 35 (206*)
1. Read lesson XXXV. Choose one sentence to read again fast!
2. Listen to the story. Click on the first page.
3. *Do this counting lapbook. You don’t have to finish today. You can do more tomorrow and the next day.

Day 36 (207)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson XXXVI.
4. Go food shopping. Buy healthy food by matching the pictures.

Day 37 (208)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson XXXVII.

Day 38 (209)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson XXXVIII.
4. Watch the lonely vowel video.

Day 39 (210)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson XXXIX.
4. Count the candles.

Day 40 (211)
1. Read lesson XL. Choose a sentence to read again fast! (Parent: If you are having to tell your child words, please consider stopping and going back to the last lesson he can read perfectly and start from there. It’s fine to have to point out a wrong word or to have to remind them by asking, “What letter does it start with?” as long as they can figure it out eventually. You can also encourage your child to use the picture for clues.)
2. Do this counting game. Count to 10.

Day 41 (212)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson XLI.
4. Do the senses lapbook. (You can still work on this lapbook even though the link within the lapbook no longer works.)

Day 42 (213)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson XLII.
4. Do this senses game.
Day 43 (214)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson XLIII.
4. Watch the color song.

Day 44 (215)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson XLIV.
4. Paint the shapes.

Day 45 (216*)
1. Read lesson XVLV.
2. Play this counting game.
3. Play this word game.
4. *Can you find your way?

Day 46 (217)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson XLVI.
4. Can you count backwards from ten? Color from ten to one and then count it down without help. Try from a bigger number if you like!

Day 47 (218)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson XLVII.
4. Can you count backwards from ten?

Day 48 (219)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson XLVIII.
4. Click on the coconuts from the smallest number to largest. Choose 1 – 20.

Day 49 (220*)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson XLIX.
4. *Color the shapes and count the different shapes.

Day 50 (221)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words. read lesson L.

Day 51 (222)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words and read lesson LI.
4. Watch the lots of shapes video.

Day 52 (223)
1. Look at your words.
2. Look at your words.
3. Look at your words (mute the audio and read it to the child) and read lesson LII
4. Listen to a rhyme.
5. Congratulations! You read a whole book!