

Starts Reading at the Top of a Page		
Understand	Definition	Good readers know that for text to make sense, you begin reading at the top of the page and move your eyes down to the bottom of the page. Reading from the top to the bottom of a page must become so automatic that readers do it without thinking.
Prepare	Why readers need this skill	In most languages the written word is sequenced from top to bottom. Children need to learn this pattern to be successful at reading.
	Secret to success	When you look at a page in a book, move your eyes to the top of the page. This is where you start to read. As you read the words, your eyes will travel to the bottom of the page. This is where you stop.
Teach	How we teach it	<p>A prerequisite for this skill is understanding the concept of top and bottom. Children can practice this concept by playing a simple game:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Touch the top of your head. Touch the bottom of your feet. Touch the top of your nose. Touch the bottom of your nose. Touch the top of your ears. Touch the bottom of your ears. <p>Look at samples of various reading materials: books, pamphlets, newspapers, and computer screens and phones with text. Read text from top to bottom and some from bottom to top. Have the children decide which make sense.</p> <p>On chart paper write out this song. Sing with students while using a pointer to help them follow along. Students can touch their heads on the word <i>top</i> and toes on the word <i>bottom</i>.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Top to Bottom (Tune: "If You're Happy and You Know It") Where do you start to read on a page? Where do you start to read on a page? You start at the top, To the bottom and then you stop. Top to bottom, top to bottom, on a page.</p>
Support	Instructional Pivots	<p>Possible ways to differentiate instruction</p> <p>It can be tricky when text begins in different spots on the page. Generally, the "top to bottom" rule still applies. No matter where a chunk of text is, begin at the top line and read to the bottom.</p> <p>Have children identify top and bottom on pictures or objects before moving to a page of text.</p>