

# *Beginnings Guides*

*It matters what a mother knows*

*It matters more what she does*

*"I found them useful even though I am not a 1st time mom. You forget things. They were easy to read and understand."*

*-A Mother's Comments*

## **Readability Ratings for**

### *Beginnings Guides*

Readability refers to the relative difficulty of decoding the words. It is one of many factors that effect comprehension and usefulness of information. Various formulas rate text intended for various audiences and purposes, so scores vary somewhat by formula.

Most Americans read at a 7th to 8th grade level. Unfamiliar topics and terms and stress make reading more difficult.

An easy readability rating, say fourth grade level, does not mean the information is suitable for a fourth grader; it shows that it is simply written and easy to read. A higher readability score, say 12th grade, does not show information is suitable for a high school graduate — only that the writing is complex and hard to read.

*FYI: You need a 10th grade reading level to understand this report.*

**Flesch Kincaid Scale:** This scale was developed for the US military to rate instruction manuals. It rates adult materials, targets 5th grade level, reliable up to 6th grade level.

*Pregnancy Guide:* 4th grade

*Parent's Guide:* 3rd grade

**Flesch Reading Ease Score:** Most widely used rating for adult materials. Uses a scale from 0 to 100. No grade levels are assigned. Higher scores mean easier reading.

*Pregnancy Guide:* 88 (Easy)

*Parent's Guide:* 90 (Easy)

**Fry Index:** Widely used in education, this index is accurate from 1st to 17th grade level.

*Pregnancy Guide:* 4th grade

*Parent's Guide:* 3rd grade

**Expanded Spanish Fry Index:** Adapted for Spanish by Gilliam

*Pregnancy Guide:* 3rd grade

*Parent's Guide:* 2nd grade