



AT A GLANCE

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[Caught in a Web?](#)

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How many different reading levels should a teacher plan for in the classroom? Trust me, it can be many. Does that mean we give all students the same textbook or research material and expect each student to easily learn the information without any differentiation? The answer is a resounding *no!* Every day, teachers respond to the learning differences of all their students, to ensure they're all learning.

The same is true for parents, but some days it is harder than others. Have you experienced trying to help your child find information for a homework assignment or research project? It may take hours to find the resources that are appropriate for your child's unique learning style.

As parents or teachers, let's focus on meeting the needs of students while simultaneously providing encouragement for students to dream, wonder, explore, discover, think for themselves, and more. And let's provide each student with whatever tools are needed to ensure successful learning.

As students are spending more time seeking information on the internet they may need additional guidance from adults to find content at an appropriate reading level. Instead of only relying on popular search engines like Google you can offer additional options. Following are a variety of search engines that can provide extraordinary benefits to students, their parents and teachers:

[Twurdy](#) is a terrific search engine to try. Merely type in the specific topic of interest, and besides showing all the relevant websites the reading level of each website is also given. There is a color-coded bar next to each website indicating how easy or challenging the reading is.

Do you have very curious kids that want to know why the sky is blue? Have them go to [howstuffworks](#). They will find intriguing videos, fun quizzes, games, and informative podcasts.

[SweetSearch4Me](#) is for elementary students beginning to learn research skills. Websites are approved by media specialists and teachers for their quality content and appropriateness for young students. Parents and teachers can feel more confident students will find appropriate content by using this search engine.

[AskKids](#) is designed for 6- 12 year olds. Students can type in a question about a homework assignment, for a trivia game, or just something they are wondering about and receive information quickly and easily.

Spanish-speaking students are encouraged to use [encontrandoDulcinea](#). Spanish language web links are listed by topic.

[Search cube](#) is my favorite visual search engine! The search results are displayed in a three-dimensional cube. It will show up to 96 websites, videos and pictures.

Want to zero in on computation questions? [WolframAlpha](#) has your number. However, additional topics have been added, i.e. people and history, culture and media, health and medicine, sports and games, and many more.

Go one step above your typical Google search and try the [Google Advanced Search](#): you can choose from 3 reading levels: basic, intermediate, or advanced. You can sort and filter the search results by the reading level of the materials.

Identify your vision: of ALL students having varieties of ways to learn and show what they know

Use your voice: to share the search tools mentioned above with fellow educators and parents

Work together: as media specialists, educators and parents so every student can have opportunities to be curious, lifelong learners.



Resources

Websites



[Ivy's Search Engine Resources For Kids](#)
You will not only find terrific search engines for students, but also Web Guides, and family friendly search engines.



All The Information in The Known Universe

Developed by [the Kentucky Virtual Library](#)

An engaging way for students to learn research skills!

[Dulcinea media](#) has developed a variety of products to help students gain research skills.

Would you love to have an easy to read, magazine-like format blog to read? Some of the articles are written by me and others are scooped from a variety of sites. Go to [Beyond Special Education](#), then click on the blue Follow button in the right hand corner.

Check out, [What's on my Bookshelf](#) on my website.



As a parent and an educator, I bring 30+ years of experience and enthusiasm to create positive change for students, families, and educators! How may I support you? Click the links below to learn more.

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What we anticipate, determines what we find!

Charmaine Thaner

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