

Recommended Children's Books

The following lists of recommended children's books include many wonderful resources that can help you foster the specific reading skills we discussed in this book. We hope these lists help you identify many books that are appropriate for your developing reader. However, we want to make sure that you know that these lists are in no way meant to be exhaustive. There are so many excellent books that are out there for you to choose from, and more are published every day. Browsing through your local library or bookstore is one of the best ways for you to discover which books will most excite your child and asking for specific recommendations from librarians and teachers can be a great way to select books at the right difficulty level for your child. There are many other books (like *A Parent's Guide to Reading with Your Young Child* by Susan Neuman, *What to Read When: The Books and Stories to Read with Your Child-and All the Best Times to Read Them* by Pam Allyn and *The Read-Aloud Handbook* by Jim Trelease) which provide much more comprehensive information to help you with book selection, and we would recommend that you refer to them for more support in this area. Included on the next few pages is just a small sample to get you started!

The Role of Oral Language in Reading Development

Wordless Picture Books

These picture books use illustrations to reveal a clear storyline with little or no text. Through making sense of the stories depicted in wordless picture books, children develop their oral narrative skills by following the sequence of events and becoming familiar with key story elements.

<i>A Ball for Daisy</i>	Chris Raschka
<i>Bow-Wow Bugs a Bug</i>	Mark Newgarden & Megan Montague
<i>Chicken and Cat</i>	Sara Varon
<i>Flotsam</i>	David Wiesner
<i>Goodnight, Gorilla</i> Peggy Rathman	Peggy Rathman
<i>Home</i> Jeannie Baker	Jeannie Baker
<i>Ice</i> Arthur Geisert	Arthur Geisert
<i>Oops!</i> Arthur Geisert	Arthur Geisert
<i>Peep!</i> Kevin Luthardt	Kevin Luthardt
<i>Sea of Dreams</i>	Dennis Nolan
<i>The Boy, The Bear, The Baron, The Bard</i>	Gregory Rogers
<i>The Lion and the Mouse</i>	Jerry Pinkney
<i>The Red Book</i>	Barbara Lehman
<i>The Surprise</i>	Sylvia Van Ommen
<i>The Treasure Bath</i>	Dan Andreasen
<i>The Yellow Balloon</i>	Charlotte Dematons
<i>Wave</i>	Suzy Lee
<i>You Can't Take a Balloon into the</i>	Jacqueline Preiss Weitzman

Recommended Children's Books

Metropolitan Museum	
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Songs, Poems, And Rhyming Books

These are books that allow children to focus on the sounds and rhythm, of the English language. By hearing poems read aloud, and singing along to their favorite songs in print, children can begin to recognize the relationship between written and spoken language.

<i>*Poetry for Young People (series) Includes Robert Frost, Emily Dickenson, and Langston Hughes</i>	Various authors by Sterling Children's Books
<i>Demolition</i>	Sally Sutton
<i>Goodnight, Goodnight Construction Site</i>	Sherri Duskey Rinker
<i>I Know a Lot!</i>	Stephen Krensky
<i>I Spy Little Letters (and other books from the I Spy series)</i>	Jean Marzollo
<i>Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices</i>	Paul Fleischman
<i>My Very First Mother Goose</i>	Lona Opie
<i>Nursery Rhymes</i>	Kate Toms
<i>One, Two Buckle my Shoe</i>	Salina Yoon
<i>Over in the Meadow ..</i>	John Langstaff
<i>Switching on the Moon: A Very First Book of Bedtime Poems for Young Children</i>	Jane Yolen & Andrew Fusek Peters (Eds.)
<i>The Random House Book of Poetry for</i>	Jack Prelutsky & Arnold Lobel
<i>We Are Going on a Bear Hunt</i>	Helen Oxenbury

Idioms

These are books that teach children about the concept of idioms. An idiom or idiomatic expression has a special meaning, which is different from the literal interpretation, and these playful books provide great examples of how we use idioms in daily life.

<i>A Little Pigeon Toad</i>	Fred Gwynne
<i>Amelia Bedelia</i>	Peggy Parish
<i>Butterflies in My Stomach and Other School Hazards</i>	Serge Bloch
<i>In a Pickle: And Other Funny Idioms</i>	Marvin Terban
<i>Raining Cats and Dogs: A Collection of Irresistible Idioms and Illustrations to Tickle the Funny Bones of Young People</i>	Will Moses
<i>There's a Frog in my Throat!</i>	Loreen Leedy & Pat Street

Recommended Children's Books

Emergent Literacy

Books to Support Phonological Awareness

These are books that incorporate word play that allows children to explore and understand the ways spoken language can be manipulated. They support the development of phonological awareness.

<i>Amelia Bedelia</i>	Peggy Parish
<i>Bark, George!</i>	Jules Peiffer
<i>Chugga Chugga Choo Choo</i>	Kevin Lewis
<i>Clip-Clap</i>	Nicola Smee
<i>Flip, Flap, Fly!: A Book for Babies Everywhere</i>	Phyllis Root
<i>Giraffes Can't Dance</i>	Giles Andreae
<i>Green Eggs and Ham</i>	Dr. Seuss
<i>HennyPenny</i>	Paul Galdone
<i>I Love You, Good Night</i>	Jon Buller
<i>Is Your Mama a Llama?</i>	Deborah Guarino
<i>Jamberry</i>	Bruce Degen
<i>Madeline</i>	Ludwig Bemelmans
<i>Moo, Baa, La La Lal</i>	Sandra Boynton
<i>Rhyming Dust Bunnies</i>	Jan Thomas
<i>Sheep in a Jeep</i>	Nancy E. Shaw
<i>Sheep on a Ship</i>	Nancy E. Shaw
<i>Silly Sally</i>	Audrey Wood
<i>The Berenstain's B Book</i>	Stan & Jan Berenstain
<i>The Cow Loves Cookies</i>	Karma Wilson
<i>Where Is the Green Sheep?</i>	Mem Fox

ABC Books

These are books that emphasize developing knowledge of letter name and their corresponding sounds in the English language.

<i>AlphaOops!: The Day Z Went First</i>	Alethea Kontis
<i>Animalia</i>	Graeme Base
<i>B Is for Bulldozer: A Construction ABC</i>	June Sobel
<i>Chicka Chicka Boom Boom</i>	Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault
<i>Click, Clack, Quackity-Quack: An Alphabetical Adventure</i>	Doreen Cronin
<i>Dr. Seuss's ABC</i>	Dr. Seuss
<i>Eric Carle's ABC</i>	Eric Carle
<i>Flora McDonnell's ABC</i>	Flora McDonnell
<i>The Hidden Alphabet</i>	Laura Vaccaro Seeger
<i>Z Is for Moose</i>	Kelly Bingham

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Decodable Books

These are books that contain words that are easily sounded out by children, based on their early grasp of letter-sound relationships. Many decodable books include words that children often can sound out at a young age while also maintaining an entertaining storyline.

<i>And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street</i>	Dr. Seuss
<i>Bob Books</i>	Lynn Maslen
<i>Decodable Little Books</i>	Christine McCormick
<i>Green Eggs and Ham</i>	Dr. Seuss
<i>Hot Rods (Phonics Practice Readers)</i>	Janis Asad Raabe
<i>Playful Pals (Set)</i>	Nora Gaydos
<i>Primary Phonics (Set)</i>	Barbara Makar
<i>The Cat in the Hat</i>	Dr. Seuss

Print Salient Books

These are books that have just a few words on each page and allow your child to focus on the print itself. The page may have an embedded picture to support the text, but by making the words obvious, books like these support children's growing awareness of a word as a single unit in text.

<i>A Frog in the Bog</i>	Karma Wilson & Joan Rankin
<i>Big Dog . . . Little Dog</i>	Philip D. Eastman
<i>Hop on Pop</i>	Dr. Seuss
<i>Is it Big or is it Little?</i>	Claudia Rueda
<i>Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity</i>	Mo Wilems
<i>Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog/</i>	Mo Wilems
<i>Polar Bear Morning.</i>	Lauren Thompson
<i>Pomelo's Opposites</i>	Ramona Badescu
<i>Punctuation Takes a Vacation</i>	Robin Pulver
<i>Rocket's Mighty Words</i>	Tad Hills
<i>Tails Chasing Tails</i>	Matthew Porter
<i>The Monster at the End of this Book</i>	Jon. Stone
<i>Where Is Spot?</i>	Eric Hill
<i>Who's Hiding</i>	Sebastien Braun
<i>Wild About Books</i>	Judy Sierra

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Learning to Write

Books for Writing

These are books in which characters engage in writing activities and provide examples for your child of how writing can be useful and fun.

<i>A Book of Letters</i>	Ken Wilson-Max
<i>A Nap in a Lap</i>	Sarah Wilson
<i>Beatrice Spells Some Lulus and Learns to Write a Letter</i>	Cari Best
<i>Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type</i>	Doreen Cronin
<i>Dear Miss LaRue,</i>	Mark Teague
<i>Dear Tyrannosaurus Rex</i>	Lisa McClatchy
<i>Desperate Dog Writes Again</i>	Eileen Christelow
<i>Diary of a Spider</i>	Doreen Cronin
<i>Diary of a Wombat</i>	Jackie French
<i>Dumpy LaRue</i>	Elizabeth Winthrop
<i>From Pictures to Words: A Book About Making a Book</i>	Janet Stevens
<i>Jolly Postman</i>	Janet Ahlberg
<i>Kids Are Authors: A Band of Coyotes</i>	Scholastic Books
<i>Kindergarten Diary</i>	Antoinette Portis
<i>Memoirs of a Goldfish</i>	Devin Scillian
<i>Messages in the Mailbox: How to Write a Letter</i>	Loreen Leedy
<i>Miss Alaineus: A Vocabulary Disaster</i>	Debra Fraiser
<i>My Grandma Lived in GQoligulch</i>	Graeme Base
<i>Nothing Ever Happens On 90th Street</i>	Ronnie Schotter
<i>Nouns and Verbs Have a Field Day</i>	Robin Pulver
<i>Rocket Writes a Story</i>	Tad Hills
<i>Thank You, Miss Doover</i>	Robin Pulver
<i>T. F. Letters</i>	Karen Ray
<i>The Important Book</i>	Margaret Wise Brown
<i>The Noisy Book</i>	Margaret Wise Brown
<i>Time For Bed</i>	Mem Fox
<i>What Do Authors Do?</i>	Eileen Christelow

Books to Teach Writing

These are books that emphasize specific aspects of written language, helping children recognize parts of speech, understand when to use punctuation marks, and develop a voice as a writer.

<i>A Dictionary of Homophones</i>	Leslie Presson
<i>Best Word Book Ever</i>	Richard Scarry
<i>Checking Your Grammar</i>	Marvin Terban
<i>Dictionary of Idioms</i>	Marvin Terban

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<i>Eight Ate: A Feast of Homonym Riddles</i>	Leslie Presson
<i>Punctuation Power</i>	Marvin Terban
<i>Punctuation Takes a Vacation</i>	Robin Pulver
<i>Rip the Page: Adventures in Creative Writing</i>	Karen Benke
<i>Scholastic Children's Dictionary</i>	Scholastic, Inc.
<i>The Amazing Pop-up Grammar Book</i>	Jennie Maizels and Kate Petty
<i>The Journey of English</i>	Donna Brook
<i>The Scholastic Dictionary of Spelling</i>	Marvin Terban
<i>Time to Rhyme</i>	Marvin Terban
<i>To Root, To Toot, To Parachute: What is a -Verb? and other books from the Words are Categorical series</i>	Brian Cleary
<i>What in the World Is a Homophone?</i>	Leslie Presson
<i>Write Away: A Handbook for Young</i>	Dave Keiper, Ruth Nathan, and Patrick Sebranek

Story Comprehension

Books That Utilize Background Knowledge

These are books that allow children to draw upon their own experiences to facilitate comprehension of stories. By describing situations that are familiar to most children, these books make it simple to prompt children to use their relevant prior knowledge before, during and after reading in order to develop a simple story schema.

<i>Before I Was Born</i>	Harriet Ziefert
<i>Birthday Presents</i>	Cynthia Rylant
<i>Flying Solo</i>	Ralph Fletcher
<i>Hey Daddy: Animal Fathers and Their Babies</i>	Mary Batten & Higgins Bond
<i>Howray for Wodney Wat</i>	Helen Lester
<i>Ira Sleeps Over</i>	Bernard Waber
<i>Julius, the Baby of the World</i>	Kevin Henkes
<i>Listen Buddy</i>	Helen Lester
<i>Some Things are Scary</i>	Florence Parry Heide

Inferential Thinking

These are books that present the reader with frequent opportunities to draw inferences. In these books, readers are often provided information by the author that is not “on the page.” Inferring is a strategy that requires the reader to predict upcoming events in a story, empathize with characters’ feelings, or draw conclusions.

<i>Anna Banana and Me</i>	Erik Lenore Blegvad
<i>Anna's Hat Tricks</i>	Akihiro Nozaki & Mitsumasa Anno
<i>Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs</i>	Judi Barrett
<i>Do You Know Which Ones Will Grow?</i>	Susan A. Shea

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<i>Frog & Toad Are Friends</i>	Arnold Lobel
<i>Good Dog Carl</i>	Alexandra Day
<i>Hattie and the Fox</i>	Mem Fox
<i>Teammates</i>	Peter Golenbock
<i>Tuesday</i>	David Weisner

Casual Reasoning

These are books in which children are given frequent opportunities to understand the relationship between cause and effect; to find meaningful, cohesive order in events; and to help predict what is going to happen next in a story.

<i>Comet's Nine Lives</i>	Jan Brett
<i>Don't Slam the Door</i>	Dori Chaconas
<i>If You Give a Mouse a Cookie</i>	Laura Numeroff
<i>That's Good, That's Bad</i>	Margery Cuyler
<i>The Giving Tree</i>	Shel Silverstein
<i>Runaway Bunny</i>	Margaret Wise Brown
<i>The Stray Dog</i>	Marc Simont

Visualizing

These are books in which children can incorporate the skills of visualizing or creating a mental movie while reading text. Mental imagery is a critical component to understanding and remembering what is read. Through these stories, children can become more involved in the text and attempt to visualize, making the story come to life.

<i>Barn Dance!</i>	Bill Martin
<i>Fireflies</i>	Julie Brinkow
<i>Harold and the Purple Crayon</i>	Crockett Johnson
<i>Miss Rumphius</i>	Barbara Cooney
<i>Night in the Country</i>	Cynthia Rylant
<i>The Lotus Seed</i>	Sherry Garland
<i>The Seashore Book</i>	Charlotte Zolotow
<i>The Stories Julian Tells</i>	Ann Cameron
<i>Time for Bed</i>	Mem Fox
<i>When I was Young in the Mountains...</i>	Cynthia Rylant

Predicting

These books allow children to learn the power of prediction through engaging with the text and monitoring their understanding of what might happen next. These books can engage the inquisitive reader as they attempt to accurately predict the next steps while learning to modify their predictions along the way.

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<i>Are You My Mother</i>	P. D. Eastman
<i>Bark, George</i>	Jules Feiffer
<i>Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type</i>	Doreen Cronin
<i>Dear Miss LaRue: Letters from Obedience School</i>	Mark Teague
<i>Mr. Grumpy's Outing</i>	John Bunningham
<i>The Enormous Crocodile</i>	Roald Dahl
<i>Who Took the Farmer's Hat?</i>	Joan L. Nodset

Questioning

All these stories focus on aspects of questioning so that children can learn to clarify meaning and focus on important components of the text. These books will help children read with purpose, as they attempt to find the answers to thought-provoking questions.

<i>Big Al</i>	Andrew Clements
<i>Charlie Anderson</i>	Barbara Abercrombie
<i>Fly Away Home</i>	Eve Bunting
<i>May I Bring a Friend?</i>	Beatrice Schenk deReginiers
<i>The Sick Day</i>	Patricia MacLachlan
<i>The Stranger</i>	Chris Van Allsburg
<i>The Wednesday Surprise</i>	Eve Bunting
<i>Dinosaur's Divorce</i>	L. Brown & M. Brown
<i>I Am Too Absolutely Small for School</i>	Lauren Child
<i>I'm a Big Brother</i>	Joanna Cole
<i>I'm a Big Sister</i>	Joanna Cole
<i>Mama and Daddy Bear's Divorce</i>	Cornelia Maude Spelman
<i>My Brave Year of Firsts: Tries, Sighs, and High Fives</i>	Jamie Lee Curtis & Laura Cornell
<i>One Special Day (A Story for Big Brothers and Sisters)</i>	Lola M. Schaefer
<i>Samuel's Baby</i>	Mark Elkin
<i>Sarah, Plain and Tall</i>	Patricia MacLachlan
<i>Spot's Baby Sister</i>	Eric Hill
<i>The Last Day of Kindergarten</i>	Nancy Lowen
<i>Wemberly Worried</i>	Keven Henkes
<i>When My Parents Forgot How to Be Friends</i>	J. Moore-Malinos

Books That Discuss Emotions

These are books that focus on the common emotions that people feel, including happiness, sadness or grumpiness, fear, and anger. Several of these books focus on the identification of emotions, while the more sophisticated books focus on how characters learn to cope with and regulate their feelings.

Recommended Children's Books

<i>Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day</i>	Judith Viorst
<i>Don't Worry Bear</i>	Greg Folley
<i>Happy .,</i>	Mies Van Hout -
<i>Lizzy's Ups and Downs</i>	Jessica Harper
<i>Mean Soup</i>	Betsy Everitt
<i>My Many Colored Days</i>	Dr. Seuss
<i>On Monday When It Rained</i>	Cherryl Kachenmeiste
<i>Sometimes I'm Bombako</i>	Rachel Vail
<i>The Dark</i>	Lemony Snicket
<i>The Dark, Dark Night</i>	M. Christina Butler
<i>The Feelings Book</i>	Todd Parr
<i>The Grouchies</i>	Debbie Wagenbach
<i>The Way I Feel</i>	Janan Cain
<i>There's a Nightmare in My Closet</i>	Mercer Mayer
<i>Today I Feel Silly: And Other Moods That Make My Day</i>	Jamie Lee Curtis & Laura Cornell
<i>When I Feel Scared (and other books from The Way I Feel series)</i>	Cornelia Maude Spelman
<i>When Sophie Gets Angry-Really, Really Angry</i>	Molly Bang
<i>Where the Wild Things Are</i>	Maurice Sendak

Books That Discuss Loss

These are books in which characters experience the loss of pets, friends, and extended family members. In these stories, characters learn to understand death and cope with feelings of grief and loss. Some books focus on a particular character's story, while others provide more general information about what happens when people or animals pass away. *These books provide general information about losses that children commonly experience or include stories about characters who experience these common losses. If your family experiences a particularly sudden or traumatic loss, or the loss of an immediate family member, please seek out other resources to ensure that your child gets the appropriate information and support.*

<i>A Gift for Tia Rosa</i>	Karen Taha
<i>A Terrible Thing Happened</i>	Margaret Holmes
<i>Always and Forever</i>	Alan Durant
<i>Blackberries in the Dark</i>	Mavis Jukes
<i>Bridge to Terabithia</i>	Katherine Paterson
<i>I Miss You—A First Look at Death</i>	P. Thomas
<i>Nana Upstairs and Nana Downstairs</i>	Tomie dePaolo
<i>Saying Goodbye</i>	Jim Boulden
<i>Tear Soup</i>	Pat Schwiebert
<i>The Invisible String</i>	Patrice Karst

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<i>The Saddest Time</i>	Norma Simon
<i>The Tenth Good Thing About Barney</i>	Judith Vorst
<i>When Dinosaurs Die</i>	Laurie Krasny Brown

Adapted from *Book Smart: How to Develop and Support Successful, Motivated Readers* by the START Engaging Parents of Students with Disabilities Project with permission from the authors, Dr. Jamie Zibulsky and Dr. Anne Cunningham.