

RECOMMENDED READINGS

This booklist was adapted with permission from the Reach Out and Read® National Center (www.reachoutandread.org). It includes some of the programs favorite books for children from birth to five years of age. However, this list is just a starting point, as there are many wonderful books for young children on the market. Most of these books are available at the local library to check out for free.

Birth-12 Months

Soft-to-Touch Board Books: *DK Publishing*

Colorful photos capture the expressions and moods of a group of babies as they engage in familiar activities. Padded covers and durable pages make these books a perfect choice for little hands. Titles include "Baby Faces", "Good Night Baby" and "Baby 1 2 3".

Chunky Board Books: *Random House*

Infants and toddlers will immediately reach for these easy to hold board books. Designed for even the smallest hands, these books hold up to the pulls and tugs of babies. The Sesame Street books in this series are very popular.

Wee Pudgy Board Books: *Putnam*

These durable board books fit easily into small hands and with its delightful photos of babies; they are a good choice for the youngest babies and toddlers. The "Soft as a Kitten" book is especially popular with babies.

Babyfaces Series by Roberta Grobel Intrater: *Scholastic*

Babies love to look at other babies and these adorable and candid photos of babies are sure to please both parents and children. Favorite books are "SMILE!" and "Peek-A-Boo!"

12-24 Months

The Talk About Series by Debbie Bailey, photo illustrated by Susan Huszar: *Firefly Press*

This series of multicultural board books is ideal for a wide age range of children. Children love the colorful photos and simple,

easy to follow text. These books are also available in Spanish. Titles include "My Mom", "My Dad", and "Families".

Snapshot Concept Board Books: *DK Publishing*

Bright color photos of familiar objects attract the attention of all children. Parents, using these durable board books, have the opportunity to talk about colors and counting with their children. Appropriate for infants, toddlers and young preschoolers. Titles include "1 2 3", "colors" and "Shapes".

Zoo's Who Board Books by Alan Benjamin: *Simon & Schuster*

Wonderful photos of a wide variety of animals in these small board books will fascinate babies. Children will enjoy learning the names of the animals and making animal noises as they look at the photos. Titles include "Zoo colors", "Zoo Numbers", and "Zoo Doings".

Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown: *HarperCollins*

A familiar and beloved bedtime classic, children love having this book read over and over at bedtime. Children enjoy memorizing the simple, repetitive and rhyming text and saying the familiar words along with their parents.

24-36 Months

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle: *Putnam*

This classic, celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary in 1994, depicts with witty text and great illustrations the increasing

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appetite of a metamorphosing caterpillar. The beautiful butterfly is glorious to behold. Children love to memorize this book.

Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed: Eileen

Christelow: *Houghton Mifflin*

No more jumping on the bed! What happens when those five little monkeys just won't stop jumping on the bed? Read to the end and find out who's the biggest monkey of all.

Truck by Donald Crews: Greenwillow

This wordless picture book appeals to children fascinated by vehicles. This beautifully illustrated pictures take readers on a journey filled with interesting sights. A great book for toddlers and older children.

Freight Train by Donald Crews: Mulberry Books

For every child who loves trains, this wonderful book uses vivid illustrations and simple text to name the cars and show the train in motion. A Caldecott Honor Book, this book is fun for all ages.

Where's Nicky by Cathryn Falwell: Clarion Books

Nicky is playing a familiar hide-and-seek game and readers are invited to find him! The first book in a series of Nicky stories, it is illustrated with bright colors and interesting objects.

Mary Had a Little Lamb by Sarah Josepha Hale, photo-illustrated by Bruce McMillan: Scholastic

Really nice photos of an African American girl and a real little lamb, doing all the things mentioned in the poem. Easy rhyming reading, familiar words, a familiar tune behind them to keep things moving along, and lots of cuddly animals--This would work for toddlers and older children as well.

Rain Feet by Angela Johnson. Illustrated by Rhonda

Mitchell: *Orchard Books*

A young black child in bright yellow rain gear, explores his neighborhood by jumping and stomping in puddles. This sturdy board book will appeal to adventurous toddlers!

Jump Frog Jump! by Robert Kalin: Greenwillow

Young children love the action and simple rhyming of this animal story. It's a cumulative tale (this is the turtle that ate the snake who swallowed a fish...) and one that children will love to recite along with you.

Over in the Meadow by Ezra Jack Keats: Viking

Over in the meadow are where all the animals are swimming, diving, buzzing and more. This charming verse is a perfect bedtime story with its gentle story of animal mothers and their offspring.

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin, Jr. Illustrated by Eric Carle: Holt

A favorite book with rhythmic text and brightly colored, it's filled with familiar animals with a review of all the animals at the end. Children will love the appealing predictable rhyme.

Early Morning in the Barn by Nancy Talfuri: Mulberry Books

A newly hatched chick explores the barnyard with all its sights and sounds of farm life. The illustrations are fresh and endearing and children will enjoy naming the animals as you turn the pages.

Have You Seen My Duckling? by Nancy Talfuri: Mulberry Books

This charmingly illustrated book features an independent young duckling, whose mother Searches diligently for him throughout their woodland home.

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3-5 Years

Madeline by Ludwig Bemelmans: *Viking*

"In an old house in Paris that was covered with vines lived twelve little girls in two straight lines" and the best-loved one is Madeline! A favorite of children for decades, the story of an adventurous little girl is a perfect for children 4 years and older.

This Is the Way We Go to School by Edith Baer, illustrated by Steve Bjorkman: *Scholastic*

Children all around the world go to school in different ways, on skis in Norway, by train in Kenya, by bicycle in China. The drawings are charming, the rhyming narrative easy to read ("Carlos takes the town in stride/Luz prefers the countryside."). Maps of the world and extra information available at the end of the book for children who want to know where the various scenes are set.

Animal Tracks written and illustrated by Arthur Dorros: *Scholastic*

A guessing game format is used to explore the animal community in the forest. Children can become detectives in their own backyards by using the directions in the book for making track tracings and looking for animals.

Angel Child, Dragon Child by Michele Maria Surat: *Scholastic*

Ut, a young child who recently immigrated from Vietnam, struggles courageously to adjust to her new life and new school as she longs for her mother who had to stay behind in Vietnam.

A Pocket for Corduroy by Don Freeman: *Viking*

Corduroy, a little bear, gets lost at the Laundromat but the happy ending reunites Corduroy with Lisa, the little girl who loves him. A story as heartwarming as the first book, Corduroy, when Lisa and corduroy first meet.

Mama, Do You Love Me? by Barbara Joose: *Scholastic*

A beautiful rhyming story with descriptions of Inuit life and arctic animals, this tale of a mother's love appeals to all children.

Jamaica Tag-Along by Juanita Havill: *Houghton-Mifflin*

Jamaica, a little girl upset about not being included in her big brother's basketball game, is building a sand castle when a younger boy asks to play with her. This time Jamaica is the older child-what is she going to choose to do?

Chickens Aren't The Only Ones by Ruth Heller: *Scholastic*

A great first science book, this book is about animals that lay eggs. Set to rhymes with captivating illustrations, children learn about different animals and the kind of eggs each lays.

Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman, illustrated by Caroline Binch: *Dial*

A little girl with a strong imagination, imagines herself right into the lead role in her school's production of "Peter Pan," –even though some classmates say Peter Pan can't be a girl, or can't be black. Grace is an unforgettable girl!

The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats: *Scholastic*

A beautiful book about the simple pleasures of playing in the snow and coming home to a warm house. A perfect book to read together on a winter's night.

Leo The Late Bloomer by Robert Kraus: *Scholastic*

Leo, a baby lion, is anxious to grow up and everyone is watching for signs of "blooming".

The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate The Wash by Trinka Hakes Noble: *Dial*

Children love this wild tale of a child's class trip to a farm and the unexpected animal found there!

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The Mud Pony retold by Caron Lee Cohen. Illustrated by Shonto Begay: *Scholastic*

In this retelling of a traditional Skidi Pawnee folktale, a young Native American boy longing for a pony makes one out of mud, falls asleep, and dreams his pony is alive. Upon waking, he finds his pony is his spirit guide in life. Beautiful illustrations document the boy's growth into adulthood.

Curious George by H.A. Rey: *Houghton Mifflin*

A timeless classic, this story of a mischievous monkey appeals to all children. George, like a small child, is so curious that he sometimes can't help but get into trouble exploring his world. Join George and the Man in the Yellow Hat in his many adventures!

Gregory, The Terrible Eater by Mitchell Sharmat: *Scholastic*

Gregory, a young goat, doesn't like to eat goat food! His parents fuss and fret about Gregory odd eating habits but when his parents come up with a clever plan, it's not long before Gregory is eating shoes and tin cans just like his parents! A humorous look at eating and trying new foods.

Mr. Brown Can Moo! Can You? Dr. Seuss: *Random House*

The remarkable Mr. Brown can make marvelous sounds and you are invited to do so too! Amazing noises from the pop of a cork to the boom of thunder are just a few of the noises Mr. Brown can do!

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst: *Simon & Schuster*

Any child who has had a frustrating day, when nothing seemed to go right, will understand just how Alexander feels. This humorous story about Alexander's day when everything goes wrong. shows children that everyone has hard days.

A Chair for My Mother by Vera Williams: *Scholastic*

A touching and compelling story of a mother and child struggling to overcome a family house fire. The daughter saves up money to buy her mom a chair. This book has received numerous honors and is a great choice for reading aloud.

Everybody Cooks Rice by Nora Dooley: *Scholastic*

As Carrie looks for her brother to fetch him home for supper, she tastes a little of each of her neighbors' delicious meals - Haitian, Vietnamese, Puerto Rican, Indian and more - and discovers that they all cook with rice. Recipes included!