Here you can find examples of a range of children’s books sorted by age or developmental level and topic, including medical conditions affecting children. These lists will help you identify the types of books you are comfortable recommending to parents and children in your program. There is also a short list of reference materials that contain longer lists of developmentally appropriate books.

“I love using books as a developmental assessment tool during clinic visits. I allow the children to help choose their own which helps them feel invested in the book and look forward to reading after the visit. I also encourage parents to read with their children, as the experience can prove to be an invaluable opportunity to open lines of communication as various themes and issues are broached. The warm bond that develops with reading together is a gift in itself, not only to parents and their children, but also to us pediatricians observing over time!”—Naba Sharif, MD

### Books by Age or Developmental Level

| For Infants to 11 Months | Baby Faces Board Book: HUGS & KISSES, by Roberta Grobel  
Baby Faces Board Book #1: PEEK-A-BOO! by Roberta Grobel  
Baby Faces Board Book #2: SMILE! by Roberta Grobel  
Carry Me (Babies Everywhere), published by Star Bright Books  
Eating the Rainbow (Babies Everywhere), published by Star Bright Books |
|---|---|
| For 1-Year-Olds | Blankie! by Leslie Patricelli  
Counting Farm, by Kathy Henderson  
No, No, Yes, Yes, by Leslie Patricelli  
Pat-A-Cake, by Tony Kenyon  
Up and Down, by Catherine Hnatov |
| For 2-Year-Olds | Barnyard Dance! by Sandra Boynton  
Duckie’s Splash, by Frances Barry  
Flora McDonell’s ABC, by Flora McDonell  
Mr. Brown Can Moo, Can You? by Dr. Seuss  
The Poky Little Puppy, by Janette Lowery and Gustaf Tenggren |
| For 3-Year-Olds | Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type, by Debbie Cronin, Betsy Lewin, and Randy Travis  
Have You Seen My Duckling? by Nancy Tafuri  
It’s Mine! by Leo Lionni  
Miss Rumphius, by Barbara Cooney  
Sylvester and the Magic Pebble, by William Steig |
### For 4-Year-Olds
- *The Adventures of Taxi Dog*, by Debra and Sal Barracca
- *The Gingerbread Man*, by Catherine McCafferty
- *The Little Red Hen*, by Diane Muldrow and JP Miller
- *One Morning in Maine*, by Robert McCloskey
- *The Snowy Day*, by Ezra Jack Keats

### For 5-Year-Olds
- *Bea and Mr. Jones*, by Amy Schwartz
- *First Day Jitters*, by Julie Danneberg
- *Mama Don’t Allow*, by Thatcher Hurd
- *Millions of Cats*, by Wanda Gag
- *Mr. Rabbit and the Lovely Present*, by Charlotte Zolotow

### For 6-Year-Olds
- *Frog and Toad Are Friends*, by Arnold Lobel
- *Nate the Great*, by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat
- *Tough Boris*, by Mem Fox
- *What Do You Do With a Kangaroo?*, by Mercer Mayer

### For 7-Year-Olds
- *Dear Mrs. Larue: Letters from Obedience School*, by Mark Teague
- *The Dot*, by Peter Reynolds
- *Martha Speaks*, by Susan Meddaugh
- *Night Noises*, by Mem Fox
- *Three Stories You Can Read to Your Dog*, by Sara Swan Miller

### For 8-Year-Olds
- *The Boxcar Children* series, by Gertrude Chandler Warner
- *Cinderella’s Rat*, by Susan Meddaugh
- *Flat Stanley*, by Jeff Brown
- *Geronimo Stilton* series, by Geronimo Stilton
- *Magic Tree House* series, by Mary Pope Osborne

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**Children’s Books by Topic**

Pediatricians are often asked to help parents talk with their young children about issues like the birth of a sibling, where babies come from, or going to the dentist. To help parents begin to talk with their child about these and other subjects, the following is a short list of picture books for young children addressing a number of these kinds of topics.

### ABC Books
- *Alphabet City*, by Stephen T. Johnson
- *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*, by Bill Martin, Jr
- *The Dinosaur Alphabet Book*, by Jerry Pallotta
- *The Guinea Pig ABC Book*, by Kate Duke
- *Penguins ABC*, by Kevin Schaffer
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adoption Books</th>
<th>Bedtime Books</th>
<th>Classic Children’s Picture Books</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Mother for Choco, by Keiko Kasza</td>
<td>Bedtime for Frances, by Russell Hoban</td>
<td>Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day, by Judith Viorst and Ray Cruz</td>
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<tr>
<td>My Mei Mei, by Ed Young</td>
<td>Can’t You Sleep Little Bear? by Martin Waddell</td>
<td>Blueberries for Sal, by Robert McCloskey</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Red Blanket, by Eliza Thomas</td>
<td>Good Night Gorilla, by Peggy Rathmann</td>
<td>Caps for Sale, by Esphry Slobodkina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tell Me Again About the Night I Was Born, by Jamie Lee Curtis</td>
<td>Grandfather Twilight, by Barbara Helen Berger</td>
<td>The Carrot Seed, by Ruth Krauss</td>
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<tr>
<td>We Belong Together, by Todd Parr</td>
<td>How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight? by Jane Yolen</td>
<td>Corduroy, by Don Freeman</td>
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<tr>
<td>You’re Not My Real Mother, by Molly Friedrich</td>
<td>Just Go to Bed, by Mercer Mayer</td>
<td>The Day Jimmy’s Boa Ate the Wash, by Trinka Hakes Noble</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ten, Nine, Eight, by Molly Bang</td>
<td>Dial Each Peach Pear Plum, by Allan Ahlberg</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Time for Bed, by Mem Fox</td>
<td>George and Martha: The Complete Stories of Two Best Friends, by James Marshall</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Time to Say Goodnight, by Sally Lloyd-Jones and Jane Chapman</td>
<td>Jingle Dancer, by Cynthia Leitich Smith</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Lily’s Purple Plastic Purse, by Kevin Henkes</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Color &amp; Shape Books</th>
<th>Counting Books</th>
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<tr>
<td>Color Farm, by Lois Ehlert</td>
<td>Baby Learns to Count, by Beverly Blacksheep</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Color of His Own, by Leo Lionni</td>
<td>Count with Maisy, by Lucy Cousins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color Zoo, by Lois Ehlert</td>
<td>Mouse Count, by Ellen Stoll Walsh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mouse Paint, by Ellen Stoll Walsh</td>
<td>Penguins 123, by Kevin Schaffer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planting a Rainbow, by Lois Ehlert</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Death/Dying Books** | I Miss You: A First Look at Death, by Pat Thomas and Leslie Harker  
The Saddest Time, by Norma Simon and Jacqueline Rogers  
A Taste of Blackberries, by Doris Buchanan Smith and Michael Wimmer  
What’s Heaven? by Maria Shiver and Sandra Speidel  
| **Death of a Pet Books** | Cat Heaven, by Cynthia Rylant  
The Day Scooter Died: A Book about the Death of a Pet, by Kathleen Long Bostrom and Cheri Bladhholm  
Dog Heaven, by Cynthia Rylant  
I’ll Always Love You, by Hans Wilhelm  
The Tenth Good Thing About Barney, by Judith Viorst and Erik Blegvad |
| **Dentists Books** | Berenstain Bears Go to the Dentist, by Jan and Stan Berenstain  
Dr. DeSoto, by William Steig  
Just Going to the Dentist, by Mercer Mayer |
| **Divorce Books** | Amber Brown Is Feeling Blue, by Paula Danziger  
Dinosaurs Divorce, by Marc Brown and Laurie Krasny Brown  
I Don’t Want to Talk About It, by Jeanie Franz Ransom and Kathryn Kunz Finney  
My Family’s Changing, by Pat Thomas  
Two Homes, by Claire Masurel and Kady MacDonald Denton |
Eye Spy Colors (Peephole Books), by Debbie MacKinnon and Anthea Sieveking  
Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear? by Bill Martine Jr and Eric Carle |
| **Friends Books** | Amos & Boris, by William Steig  
A Best Friend for Frances, by Russell Hoban and Lillian Hoban  
Caleb & Kate, by William Steig  
Frog and Toad Are Friends, by Arnold Lobel |
| **Good Nutrition Books** | Bread and Jam for Frances, by Russell Hoban and Lillian Hoban  
Eating the Alphabet, by Lois Ehlert  
Eat Your Peas, Ivy Louise! by Leo Landry  
Everybody Cooks Rice, by Norah Dooley and Peter J Thornton  
Gregory the Terrible Eater, by Mitchell Sharmat, Jose Aruego, and Ariane Dewey  
The Gulsps, by Rosemary Wells and Marc Brown  
Lunch, by Denise Fleming  
The Very Hungry Caterpillar, by Eric Carle  
Ugly Vegetables, by Grace Lin |
| Human Body/Where Babies Come From Books | Arthur’s New Baby, by Marc Brown  
A Baby Sister for Frances, by Russell Hoban and Lillian Hoban  
How You Were Born, by Joanna Cole and Margaret Miller  
It’s Not the Stork! A Book About Girls, Boys, Babies, Bodies, Families and Friends, by Robie H. Harris and Michael Emberley  
It’s Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex and Sexual Health, by Robie Harris and Michael Emberley  
It’s So Amazing! A Book About Eggs, Sperm, Birth, Babies, and Families, by Robie Harris and Michael Emberley  
Julius, The Baby of the World, by Kevin Henkes  
The New Baby, by Mercer Mayer  
The New Baby, by Fred Rogers  
“What’s Happening to Me?” An Illustrated Guide to Puberty, by Peter Mayle and Arthur Robins |
| New Home/Moving Books | Alexander, Who’s Not (Do You Hear Me? I Mean It!) Going to Move, by Judith Viorst, Ray Cruz, and Robin Preiss Glasser  
The Berenstain Bears’ Moving Day, by Stan Berenstain and Jan Berenstain  
Goodbye House, by Frank Asch  
Ira Says Goodbye, by Bernard Waber  
We’re Moving, by Heather Maisner and Kristina Stephenson |
| Reluctant Readers Books | Amber Brown Is Not a Crayon, by Paula Danziger and Tony Ross  
Flat Stanley, by Jeff Brown and Macky Pamintuan  
Frog and Toad Together, by Arnold Lobel  
Hatchet, by Gary Paulsen  
The Mouse and the Motorcycle, by Beverly Cleary and Jacqueline Rogers |
Fire! Fire! by Gail Gibbons  
I Can Be Safe: A First Look at Safety, by Pat Thomas and Lesley Harker  
Officer Buckle and Gloria, by Peggy Rathmann  
Stop, Drop, and Roll: A Book about Fire Safety, by Margaret Cuyler and Arthur Howard |
| School Books | Bea and Mr. Jones, by Amy Schwartz  
First Day Jitters, by Julie Danneberg  
Miss Nelson Is Missing, by Harry Allard and James Marshall  
Off to School Baby Duck! by Amy Hest and Jill Barton  
Vera’s First Day of School, by Vera Rosenberry |
### Siblings Books
- *Big Sister and Little Sister*, by Charlotte Zolotow and Martha Alexander
- *I’m a Big Brother*, by Joanna Cole and Rosalinda Kightley
- *I’m a Big Sister*, by Joanna Cole and Rosalinda Kightley
- *Seven Chinese Brothers*, by Margaret Mahy, Jean Tseng, and Mou-sien Tseng
- *Sisters*, by David MacPhail
- *The Wildest Brother*, by Cornelia Funke

### Toilet Training Books
- *Everyone Poops*, by Taro Gomi and Amanda Mayer Stinchecum
- *Going to the Potty*, by Fred Rogers
- *My Big Boy Potty/My Big Girl Potty*, by Joanna Cole and Maxie Chambliss
- *Once Upon a Potty—Girl/Boy*, by Alona Frankel
- *Where’s the Poop?*, by Julie Markes and Susan Kathleen Hartung

### Books About Going to the Hospital or Doctor
These books are also primarily picture books for children who need to go to the doctor or hospital or those with siblings or young friends who are ill.

### Going to the Hospital Picture Books
- *Clifford Visits the Hospital*, by Norman Bridwell
- *Curious George Goes to the Hospital*, by Margret and HA Rey
- *Do I Have to Go to the Hospital?*, by Pat Thomas and Lesley Harker
- *Franklin Goes to the Hospital*, by Paulette Bourgeois and Brenda Clark
- *Going to the Hospital*, by Anne Civardi, Michelle Bates, and Stephen Cartwright
- *Going to the Hospital*, by Fred Rogers
- *Good-bye Tonsils*, by Craig Hatkoff, Juliana Hatkoff, and Marilyn Mets
- *Little Critter: My Visit to the Hospital*, by Mercer Mayer
- *Madeline*, by Ludwig Bemelmans

### Books for Children With Serious Illnesses
- *Chemo Girl: Saving the World One Treatment at a Time*, by Christina Richmond
- *H is for Hair Fairy: An Alphabet of Encouragement and Insight for Kids (and Kids at Heart!) with Cancer*, by Kim Martin and Wend Boomhower
- *Kathy’s Hats: A Story of Hope*, by Trudy Kisher and Nadine Bernard Westcott
- *What About Me? When Brothers and Sisters Get Sick*, by Allan Peterkin and Frances Middendorf
- *When Molly Was in the Hospital: A Book for Brothers and Sisters of Hospitalized Children*, by Debbie Duncan and Nina Ollikainen

### More Minor Illness/Health Supervision Books
- *Berenstain Bears Go to the Doctor*, by Jan and Stan Berenstain
- *Katie Caught a Cold (Dr. Hippo)*, by Charlotte Cowan and Katy Bratun
- *The Little Elephant with the Big Earache (Dr. Hippo)*, by Charlotte Cowan and Elaine Garvin
- *Peeper Has a Fever (Dr. Hippo)*, by Charlotte Cowan and Susan Banta
- *Sadie’s Sore Throat (Dr. Hippo)*, by Charlotte Cowan and Katy Bratun
Books About a Hospital Stay, an Operation, or a Procedure

- Becky’s Story: A Book to Share, by Donna Baznik
- A Big Operation, by Richard Scarry
- Chris Gets Ear Tubes, by Betty Pace and Kathryn Hutton
- Curious George Goes to the Hospital, by Margret and H.A. Rey
- David’s Story: A Book About Surgery, by Benjamin Brink
- Koko Bear’s Big Earache: Preparing Your Child For Ear Tube Surgery, by Vicki Lansky
- Let’s Talk About When Someone You Love Is in the Hospital, by Marianne Johnston
- Let’s Talk About When You Have Your Tonsils Out, by Melanie Apel Gordon
- Maggie and the Emergency Room, by Martine Davison
- My Brother Needs an Operation, by Anna Marie Jaworski, Linda Ball, and Sarah Lualdi Moran
- Surgery For Me? by Sara Jane Books
- Tubes in My Ears: My Trip to the Hospital, by Virginia Dooley and Miriam Katin
- Why am I Going to the Hospital? by Carole Stuart-Livingston
- Your Doctor, My Doctor, by Joan Drescher

Reference Resources (available at libraries and bookstores)

The books listed are in English; bilingual books are available through Scholastic Books and Reach Out and Read, among other publishers.

- Baby Read Aloud Basics: Fun and Interactive Ways to Help Your Little One Discover the World of Words by Caroline J Blakemore & Barbara Weston Ramirez
  AMACOM Books
  Houghton Mifflin
- How to Get Your Child to Love Reading by Esme Raji Codell
  Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill
  Three Rivers Press/Random House
- Raising Bookworms: Getting Kids Reading For Pleasure and Empowerment by Emma Walton-Hamilton
  Beech Tree Books
- The Read-Aloud Handbook by Jim Trelease
  Penguin
- Valerie & Walter’s Best Books for Children: A Lively, Opinionated Guide by Valerie V Lewis and Walter M Mayes
  Quill/HarperCollins
Other pediatric professional ePubs in this AAP series include the following:

- Evidence Supporting Early Literacy and Early Learning
- Selecting Books for Your Program
- What Every Pediatric Professional Can Do to Promote Early Literacy and Early Learning

Family resources related to early literacy and early learning include the following:

- Helping Your Child Learn to Read
- Sharing Books With Your Baby up to Age 11 Months
- Sharing Books With Your 1-Year-Old
- Sharing Books With Your 2-Year-Old
- Sharing Books With Your Preschooler
- Sharing Books With Your School-Age Child
- The Secret to a Smarter Baby
- Why It Is Never Too Early to Start Reading With Your Baby

Please visit aap.org/literacy for further information about resources mentioned within this publication and additional resources on early literacy.

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