



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

<p>For Infants to 11 Months</p>	<p><i>Baby Faces Board Book: HUGS & KISSES</i>, by Roberta Grobel <i>Baby Faces Board Book #1: PEEK-A-BOO!</i> by Roberta Grobel <i>Baby Faces Board Book #2: SMILE!</i> by Roberta Grobel <i>Carry Me (Babies Everywhere)</i>, published by Star Bright Books <i>Eating the Rainbow (Babies Everywhere)</i>, published by Star Bright Books</p>
<p>For 1-Year-Olds</p>	<p><i>Blankie!</i> by Leslie Patricelli <i>Counting Farm</i>, by Kathy Henderson <i>No, No, Yes, Yes</i>, by Leslie Patricelli <i>Pat-A-Cake</i>, by Tony Kenyon <i>Up and Down</i>, by Catherine Hnatov</p>
<p>For 2-Year-Olds</p>	<p><i>Barnyard Dance!</i> by Sandra Boynton <i>Duckie’s Splash</i>, by Frances Barry <i>Flora McDonell’s ABC</i>, by Flora McDonell <i>Mr. Brown Can Moo, Can You?</i> by Dr Seuss <i>The Poky Little Puppy</i>, by Janette Lowery and Gustaf Tenggren</p>
<p>For 3-Year-Olds</p>	<p><i>Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type</i>, by Debbie Cronin, Betsy Lewin, and Randy Travis <i>Have You Seen My Duckling?</i> by Nancy Tafuri <i>It’s Mine!</i> by Leo Lionni <i>Miss Rumphius</i>, by Barbara Cooney <i>Sylvester and the Magic Pebble</i>, by William Steig</p>

For 4-Year-Olds	<p><i>The Adventures of Taxi Dog</i>, by Debra and Sal Barracca <i>The Gingerbread Man</i>, by Catherine McCafferty <i>The Little Red Hen</i>, by Diane Muldrow and JP Miller <i>One Morning in Maine</i>, by Robert McCloskey <i>The Snowy Day</i>, by Ezra Jack Keats</p>
For 5-Year-Olds	<p><i>Bea and Mr. Jones</i>, by Amy Schwartz <i>First Day Jitters</i>, by Julie Danneberg <i>Mama Don't Allow</i>, by Thatcher Hurd <i>Millions of Cats</i>, by Wanda Gag <i>Mr. Rabbit and the Lovely Present</i>, by Charlotte Zolotow</p>
For 6-Year-Olds	<p><i>Frog and Toad Are Friends</i>, by Arnold Lobel <i>Nate the Great</i>, by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat <i>Tough Boris</i>, by Mem Fox <i>What Do You Do With a Kangaroo?</i> by Mercer Mayer</p>
For 7-Year-Olds	<p><i>Dear Mrs. Larue: Letters from Obedience School</i>, by Mark Teague <i>The Dot</i>, by Peter Reynolds <i>Martha Speaks</i>, by Susan Meddaugh <i>Night Noises</i>, by Mem Fox <i>Three Stories You Can Read to Your Dog</i>, by Sara Swan Miller</p>
For 8-Year-Olds	<p><i>The Boxcar Children</i> series, by Gertrude Chandler Warner <i>Cinderella's Rat</i>, by Susan Meddaugh <i>Flat Stanley</i>, by Jeff Brown <i>Geronimo Stilton</i> series, by Geronimo Stilton <i>Magic Tree House</i> series, by Mary Pope Osborne</p>

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	<p><i>Alphabet City</i>, by Stephen T. Johnson <i>Chicka Chicka Boom Boom</i>, by Bill Martin, Jr <i>The Dinosaur Alphabet Book</i>, by Jerry Pallotta <i>The Guinea Pig ABC Book</i>, by Kate Duke <i>Penguins ABC</i>, by Kevin Schaffer</p>
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<p>Adoption Books</p>	<p><i>A Mother for Choco</i>, by Keiko Kasza <i>My Mei Mei</i>, by Ed Young <i>The Red Blanket</i>, by Eliza Thomas <i>Tell Me Again About the Night I Was Born</i>, by Jamie Lee Curtis <i>We Belong Together</i>, by Todd Parr <i>You're Not My Real Mother</i>, by Molly Friedrich</p>
<p>Bedtime Books</p>	<p><i>Bedtime for Frances</i>, by Russell Hoban <i>Can't You Sleep Little Bear?</i> by Martin Waddell <i>Good Night Gorilla</i>, by Peggy Rathmann <i>Grandfather Twilight</i>, by Barbara Helen Berger <i>How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight?</i> by Jane Yolen <i>Just Go to Bed</i>, by Mercer Mayer <i>Ten, Nine, Eight</i>, by Molly Bang <i>Time for Bed</i>, by Mem Fox <i>Time to Say Goodnight</i>, by Sally Lloyd-Jones and Jane Chapman</p>
<p>Classic Children's Picture Books</p>	<p><i>Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day</i>, by Judith Viorst and Ray Cruz <i>Blueberries for Sal</i>, by Robert McCloskey <i>Caps for Sale</i>, by Esphry Slobodkina <i>The Carrot Seed</i>, by Ruth Krauss <i>Corduroy</i>, by Don Freeman <i>The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash</i>, by Trinka Hakes Noble <i>Dial Each Peach Pear Plum</i>, by Allan Ahlberg <i>George and Martha: The Complete Stories of Two Best Friends</i>, by James Marshall <i>Jingle Dancer</i>, by Cynthia Leitich Smith <i>Lily's Purple Plastic Purse</i>, by Kevin Henkes</p>
<p>Color & Shape Books</p>	<p><i>Color Farm</i>, by Lois Ehlert <i>A Color of His Own</i>, by Leo Lionni <i>Color Zoo</i>, by Lois Ehlert <i>Mouse Paint</i>, by Ellen Stoll Walsh <i>Planting a Rainbow</i>, by Lois Ehlert</p>
<p>Counting Books</p>	<p><i>Baby Learns to Count</i>, by Beverly Blacksheep <i>Count with Maisy</i>, by Lucy Cousins <i>Mouse Count</i>, by Ellen Stoll Walsh <i>Penguins 123</i>, by Kevin Schaffer</p>

<p>Death/Dying Books</p>	<p><i>I Miss You: A First Look at Death</i>, by Pat Thomas and Leslie Harker <i>The Saddest Time</i>, by Norma Simon and Jacqueline Rogers <i>A Taste of Blackberries</i>, by Doris Buchanan Smith and Michael Wimmer <i>What’s Heaven?</i> by Maria Shiver and Sandra Speidel <i>When Dinosaurs Die: A Guide to Understanding Death</i>, by Laurie Krasny Brown and Marc Brown</p>
<p>Death of a Pet Books</p>	<p><i>Cat Heaven</i>, by Cynthia Rylant <i>The Day Scooter Died: A Book about the Death of a Pet</i>, by Kathleen Long Bostrom and Cheri Bladholm <i>Dog Heaven</i>, by Cynthia Rylant <i>I’ll Always Love You</i>, by Hans Wilhelm <i>The Tenth Good Thing About Barney</i>, by Judith Viorst and Erik Blegvad</p>
<p>Dentists Books</p>	<p><i>Berenstain Bears Go to the Dentist</i>, by Jan and Stan Berenstain <i>Dr. DeSoto</i>, by William Steig <i>Just Going to the Dentist</i>, by Mercer Mayer</p>
<p>Divorce Books</p>	<p><i>Amber Brown Is Feeling Blue</i>, by Paula Danziger <i>Dinosaurs Divorce</i>, by Marc Brown and Laurie Krasny Brown <i>I Don’t Want to Talk About It</i>, by Jeanie Franz Ransom and Kathryn Kunz Finney <i>My Family’s Changing</i>, by Pat Thomas <i>Two Homes</i>, by Claire Masurel and Kady MacDonald Denton</p>
<p>The Five Senses Books</p>	<p><i>Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?</i> by Bill Martine Jr and Eric Carle <i>Eye Spy Colors (Peephole Books)</i>, by Debbie MacKinnon and Anthea Sieveking <i>Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?</i> by Bill Martine Jr and Eric Carle</p>
<p>Friends Books</p>	<p><i>Amos & Boris</i>, by William Steig <i>A Best Friend for Frances</i>, by Russell Hoban and Lillian Hoban <i>Caleb & Kate</i>, by William Steig <i>Frog and Toad Are Friends</i>, by Arnold Lobel</p>
<p>Good Nutrition Books</p>	<p><i>Bread and Jam for Frances</i>, by Russell Hoban and Lillian Hoban <i>Eating the Alphabet</i>, by Lois Ehlert <i>Eat Your Peas, Ivy Louise!</i> by Leo Landry <i>Everybody Cooks Rice</i>, by Norah Dooley and Peter J Thornton <i>Gregory the Terrible Eater</i>, by Mitchell Sharmat, Jose Aruego, and Ariane Dewey <i>The Gulps</i>, by Rosemary Wells and Marc Brown <i>Lunch</i>, by Denise Fleming <i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar</i>, by Eric Carle <i>Ugly Vegetables</i>, by Grace Lin</p>

<p>Human Body/ Where Babies Come From Books</p>	<p><i>Arthur’s New Baby</i>, by Marc Brown <i>A Baby Sister for Frances</i>, by Russell Hoban and Lillian Hoban <i>How You Were Born</i>, by Joanna Cole and Margaret Miller <i>It’s Not the Stork! A Book About Girls, Boys, Babies, Bodies, Families and Friends</i>, by Robie H. Harris and Michael Emberley <i>It’s Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex and Sexual Health</i>, by Robie Harris and Michael Emberley <i>It’s So Amazing! A Book About Eggs, Sperm, Birth, Babies, and Families</i>, by Robie Harris and Michael Emberley <i>Julius, The Baby of the World</i>, by Kevin Henkes <i>The New Baby</i>, by Mercer Mayer <i>The New Baby</i>, by Fred Rogers <i>“What’s Happening to Me?” An Illustrated Guide to Puberty</i>, by Peter Mayle and Arthur Robins</p>
<p>New Home/ Moving Books</p>	<p><i>Alexander, Who’s Not (Do You Hear Me? I Mean It!) Going to Move</i>, by Judith Viorst, Ray Cruz, and Robin Preiss Glasser <i>The Berenstain Bears’ Moving Day</i>, by Stan Berenstain and Jan Berenstain <i>Goodbye House</i>, by Frank Asch <i>Ira Says Goodbye</i>, by Bernard Waber <i>We’re Moving</i>, by Heather Maisner and Kristina Stephenson</p>
<p>Reluctant Readers Books</p>	<p><i>Amber Brown Is Not a Crayon</i>, by Paula Danziger and Tony Ross <i>Flat Stanley</i>, by Jeff Brown and Macky Pamintuan <i>Frog and Toad Together</i>, by Arnold Lobel <i>Hatchet</i>, by Gary Paulsen <i>The Mouse and the Motorcycle</i>, by Beverly Cleary and Jacqueline Rogers</p>
<p>Safety Books</p>	<p><i>Dinosaurs, Beware! A Safety Guide</i>, by Stephen Kensky <i>Fire! Fire!</i> by Gail Gibbons <i>I Can Be Safe: A First Look at Safety</i>, by Pat Thomas and Lesley Harker <i>Officer Buckle and Gloria</i>, by Peggy Rathmann <i>Stop, Drop, and Roll: A Book about Fire Safety</i>, by Margaret Cuyler and Arthur Howard</p>
<p>School Books</p>	<p><i>Bea and Mr. Jones</i>, by Amy Schwartz <i>First Day Jitters</i>, by Julie Danneberg <i>Miss Nelson Is Missing</i>, by Harry Allard and James Marshall <i>Off to School Baby Duck!</i> by Amy Hest and Jill Barton <i>Vera’s First Day of School</i>, by Vera Rosenberry</p>

<p>Siblings Books</p>	<p><i>Big Sister and Little Sister</i>, by Charlotte Zolotow and Martha Alexander <i>I'm a Big Brother</i>, by Joanna Cole and Rosalinda Kightley <i>I'm a Big Sister</i>, by Joanna Cole and Rosalinda Kightley <i>Seven Chinese Brothers</i>, by Margaret Mahy, Jean Tseng, and Mou-sien Tseng <i>Sisters</i>, by David MacPhail <i>The Wildest Brother</i>, by Cornelia Funke</p>
<p>Toilet Training Books</p>	<p><i>Everyone Poops</i>, by Taro Gomi and Amanda Mayer Stinchecum <i>Going to the Potty</i>, by Fred Rogers <i>My Big Boy Potty/My Big Girl Potty</i>, by Joanna Cole and Maxie Chambliss <i>Once Upon a Potty—Girl/Boy</i>, by Alona Frankel <i>Where's the Poop?</i> by Julie Markes and Susan Kathleen Hartung</p>

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.

<p>Going to the Hospital Picture Books</p>	<p><i>Clifford Visits the Hospital</i>, by Norman Bridwell <i>Curious George Goes to the Hospital</i>, by Margret and HA Rey <i>Do I Have to Go to the Hospital?</i> by Pat Thomas and Lesley Harker <i>Franklin Goes to the Hospital</i>, by Paulette Bourgeois and Brenda Clark <i>Going to the Hospital</i>, by Anne Civardi, Michelle Bates, and Stephen Cartwright <i>Going to the Hospital</i>, by Fred Rogers <i>Good-bye Tonsils</i>, by Craig Hatkoff, Juliana Hatkoff, and Marilyn Mets <i>Little Critter: My Visit to the Hospital</i>, by Mercer Mayer <i>Madeline</i>, by Ludwig Bemelmans</p>
<p>Books for Children With Serious Illnesses</p>	<p><i>Chemo Girl: Saving the World One Treatment at a Time</i>, by Christina Richmond <i>H is for Hair Fairy: An Alphabet of Encouragement and Insight for Kids (and Kids at Heart!) with Cancer</i>, by Kim Martin and Wend Boomhower <i>Kathy's Hats: A Story of Hope</i>, by Trudy Kisher and Nadine Bernard Westcott <i>What About Me? When Brothers and Sisters Get Sick</i>, by Allan Peterkin and Frances Middendorf <i>When Molly Was in the Hospital: A Book for Brothers and Sisters of Hospitalized Children</i>, by Debbie Duncan and Nina Ollikainen</p>
<p>More Minor Illness/Health Supervision Books</p>	<p><i>Berenstain Bears Go to the Doctor</i>, by Jan and Stan Berenstain <i>Katie Caught a Cold (Dr. Hippo)</i>, by Charlotte Cowan and Katy Bratun <i>The Little Elephant with the Big Earache (Dr. Hippo)</i>, by Charlotte Cowan and Elaine Garvin <i>Peeper Has a Fever (Dr. Hippo)</i>, by Charlotte Cowan and Susan Banta <i>Sadie's Sore Throat (Dr. Hippo)</i>, by Charlotte Cowan and Katy Bratun</p>

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

The Essential Guide to Children’s Books and their Creators
 edited by Anita Silvey
 Houghton Mifflin

How to Get Your Child to Love Reading
 by Esme Raji Codell
 Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill

The New York Times Parent’s Guide to the Best Books for Children
 by Eden Ross Lipson
 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

Adapted from AAP Literacy Promotion Toolkit Web site (2008), Diane DerMarderosian, MD, FAAP, Pamela C High, MD, FAAP, Jackie Miller, and the AAP Council on Early Childhood, 2014

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.

The recommendations in this publication do not indicate an exclusive course of treatment or serve as a standard of medical care. Variations, taking into account individual circumstances, may be appropriate. Original document included as part of Books Build Connections Toolkit. Copyright © 2015 American Academy of Pediatrics. All Rights Reserved. The American Academy of Pediatrics does not review or endorse any modifications made to this document and in no event shall the AAP be liable for any such changes.

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