

Learning to read *begins* before children start school. Help your children develop early literacy skills now; this makes it easier for children to learn to read once they begin school.

Five of the best ways to help your child get ready to read are:

Talking
Singing
Reading
Writing
Playing



Learn how to help your child get ready to read with simple activities such as the ones suggested here.

Find more ideas at your library.

Every Child Ready to Read[®] is a project of the Association for Library Service to Children and the Public Library Association, divisions of the American Library Association.

www.everychildreadytoread.org

Getting Ready to Read at Home

Places to Talk

Talking with your child is one of the best ways to help develop language and other early literacy skills. Conversations help a child express thoughts, learn what words mean, and gain new information about the world. Any place is a good place to talk with your child. All you need is to take the time and ignore any distractions. Listen to what your child says, answer questions, add new information, and listen some more! Ten chances to chat during the day include:

Morning routines	Doing household chores
In the car	At the store
Waiting in a line	During bath time
Before a nap	Before bedtime
During meals	Out on a walk

Places to Sing

Singing helps children hear the distinct sounds that make up words. This is an important early literacy skill. Songs also teach new vocabulary and introduce new ideas and concepts.

Sing with your children any chance you have: at home, in the car, during a walk. You don't need a perfect voice, just some enthusiasm. Play music that was written especially for children. Check out music CDs from the library or listen to family-friendly music online from sites such as www.freesongsforkids.com or www.speakaboos.com/songs.

Move to the music. Children develop motor skills as they clap, jump, twirl, and spin to music. Make simple musical instruments and play them as you sing. Fill a plastic bottle with cereal or use a pie-tin and wooden spoon as percussion instruments. Need more ideas for what to make? Find help at the library.

You also can sing nursery rhymes or sing instead of reading a book. Find a book that is based on a song (ask your librarian for help) or make up a simple tune for one of your child's favorite books

Places to Read

Shared reading—or reading books together—is the single best way to help children develop early literacy skills. Read together every day and talk about the books you read.

Create a special space for your children to look at books. Have a comfortable chair or pillows and a small shelf or basket for favorite books. Make sure there's room for you and your child to sit together and that your child can reach books without needing help. Encourage your child to pretend to read a book to a favorite stuffed animal.

Have a special spot for library books. Keep a list of favorite books to check out and the names of authors you especially enjoy. Write down questions your child asks. On your next visit to the library, look for books related to your child's interests.

Show your child that reading is important by letting him or her see *you* read.

Places to Write

Reading and writing go together. Writing activities help children learn letter names and sound out new words. Writing also helps children understand that written words represent ideas, places, and events.

Make it easy for your child to write throughout the day. Set up a space where your child can go on his or her own and use writing materials. Provide pencils, crayons, or markers of different sizes so your child can write with what is most comfortable. Use unlined paper. When your child is ready to write letters, begin with uppercase letters. Try writing favorite words first, such as your child's name or "Mom" and "Dad."

Show examples of your writing: lists, letters, thank you notes, instructions, etc. Write your child a note and leave it in the writing area. Display your child's writing for the entire family to see. Save what your child writes in a box or basket.

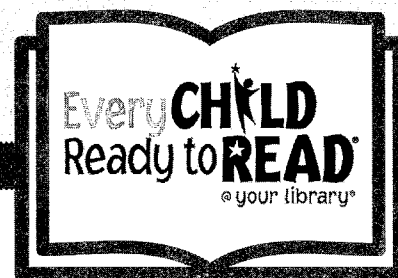
Places to Play

Children learn how to express themselves, the meaning of words, and other early literacy skills by playing. Play requires a little space, simple props, and some imagination and encouragement. You don't need special toys or expensive electronics. Provide inexpensive props like large boxes, old clothes or costumes for dress up, empty food containers, paper shopping bags, and empty paper towel rolls. Make sock puppets; create a puppet stage using a sheet draped over two chairs and act out a favorite story.

Encourage your child to create stories by imagining he or she is in another place or pretending to be someone else. Play comes naturally to young children and is one of the primary ways they learn. Provide plenty of opportunities for your child to play.

Talking to Get Every Child Ready to Read

Books That Invite Participation



Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? written by Bill Martin, Jr.; illustrated by Eric Carle. Henry Holt, 1992.

Young readers will learn about animals and color in this fun book where different animals introduce each other by using clever rhymes.

Fortunately written and illustrated by Remy Charlip. Aladdin, 1993.

Ned gets into all sorts of misadventures as his luck turns from good to bad to good again.

Good Night, Gorilla written and illustrated by Peggy Rathmann. Putnam, 1994.

A little gorilla steals the zookeeper's keys, unlocks the cages of the other animals, and the whole group follows the zookeeper to his house.

Is Your Mama a Llama? written by Deborah Guarino; illustrated by Steven Kellogg. Scholastic, 1991.

A rhyming text that follows Lloyd the young llama on his quest to find out who else might have a llama for a Mama.

Jesse Bear What Will You Wear? written by Nancy White Carlstrom; illustrated by Bruce Degen. Simon & Schuster, 1986.

This fun rhyming story about a day in the life of Jesse Bear contains bright, colorful illustrations.

Jump, Frog, Jump! written by Robert Kalan; illustrated by Byron Barton. HarperCollins, 1981.

A frog trying to capture a fly suddenly finds himself being held captive and must jump in order to escape imminent danger.

Little Red Hen written and illustrated by Paul Galdone. HMH Books, 2011.

In this rollicking rendition of the classic tale, the hardworking little red hen tries to get her friends to help with her chores.

Magic Hat written by Mem Fox; illustrated by Tricia Tusa. Harcourt, 2002.

A magical hat, leaving a trail of sparkles and glitter, turns the townspeople into fun-loving animals. Guessing which animal the next person turns into captivates and engages young readers.

Millions of Cats

written and illustrated by

Wanda Gag. Putnam, 2004.

An enchanting tale of a very old man who goes off in search of the prettiest cat in the world for his wife and returns with millions of cats from which to choose.

Miss Polly Has a Dolly written by Pamela Duncan Edwards; illustrated by Elicia Castaldi. Putnam, 2003.

Children will enjoy reading along to this expanded version of the popular street rhyming chant (Miss Polly has a dolly who is sick, sick, sick).

My Little Sister Ate One Hare written by Bill Grossman; illustrated by Kevin Hawkes. Dragonfly Books, 1996.

Entertaining counting/rhyming story about a young magician who cheerfully consumes just about anything.

Napping House written by Audrey Wood; illustrated by Don Wood. Harcourt, 1984.

A grandmother, child, and various pets all share a bed and take a nap together, until they are joined by a wakeful flea that causes a huge commotion.

Rhyming Dust Bunnies written and illustrated by Jan Thomas. Beach Lane Books, 2009.

A group of rhyming dust bunnies encounter resistance from a fourth dust bunny, only to learn that he is trying to warn them of impending danger from the broom and vacuum cleaner.

The Jacket I Wear in the Snow written by Shirley Neitzel; illustrated by Nancy Winslow Parker. Greenwillow Books, 1989.

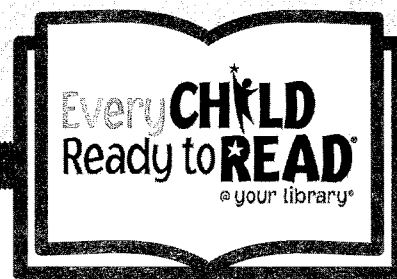
A book about the layers of clothes that we put on and take off, told in appealing rhymes.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar written and illustrated by Eric Carle. Philomel Books, 2009.

The 40th anniversary of this book is a pop-up adventure that makes the story of the caterpillar's transformation into a butterfly even more intriguing.

Talking to Get Every Child Ready to Read

Wordless Books That Make You the Storyteller



These books tell stories through pictures. Wordless picture books give children the opportunity to tell the stories themselves. In telling their stories, children develop language skills and also get a sense of sequence of events in stories.

***A Boy, a Dog, and a Frog* by Mercer Mayer. Dial Press, 2003.**
Pictures tell the story of a boy and a dog as they try to catch a frog.

***Carl's Masquerade* by Alexandra Day. Farrar, 1992.**
Carl the dog is responsible for watching the baby while its parents attend a masquerade. Instead, Carl and his young ward decide to crash the party.

***Chalk* by Bill Thompson. Marshall Cavendish, 2010.**
Eye-catching illustrations tell the story of three children whose chalk drawings begin to do surprising things.

***Dinosaur!* by Peter Sís. HarperCollins, 2000.**
A small boy taking a bath with his dinosaur toy is soon surrounded by real dinosaurs and transported to an ancient prehistoric pond.

***Dinosaur Dream* by Robin Michal Koontz. Putnam, 1988.**
Shane's stuffed dinosaurs come alive in the night and take him on an adventure to prehistoric times.

***Flotsam* by David Wiesner. Clarion Books, 2006.**
Vivid watercolors illustrate the story of an inquisitive boy who finds a camera on the beach. When the film is developed a surprising marine world is revealed.

***Free Fall* by David Wiesner. HarperCollins, 2008.**
When he falls asleep with a book in his arms, a young boy dreams of castles, dragons, and a faraway enchanted land.

***I See a Song* by Eric Carle. Scholastic, 1996.**

Vibrant illustrations accompany this tale of a musician and his violin bringing music to life through shapes and color.

***The Lion & The Mouse* by Jerry Pinkney. Little, Brown, 2009.**

When a lion spares a mouse's life, they both learn a valuable lesson about the importance of kindness in this beautifully illustrated adaption of the famous *Aesop's Fable*.

***The Snowman* by Raymond Briggs. Random House, 1978.**

Beautifully illustrated story of the friendship between a snowman and a young boy.

***Time Flies* by Eric Rohmann. Crown, 1994.**

The simple story of a bird who travels through time and ends up in the prehistoric era is transformed by beautiful and dramatic illustrations.

***Truck* by Donald Crews. Greenwillow Books, 1980.**

Readers follow a big red truck on its journey from loading a shipment to traveling and delivering the goods.

***Wave* by Suzy Lee. Chronicle Books, 2008.**

This stunning picture book captures the wonders of a child's experiences at the beach.

***Welcome to the Zoo* by Alison Jay. Dial Press, 2008.**

Animals and visitors interact through fun activities in this imaginary zoo where there are no cages for the animals.

***Window* by Jeannie Baker. Greenwillow Books, 1991.**

Uses multimedia collages to illustrate the effect human beings have on the environment. Readers follow Sam as he watches the world change from his window over the years.

Singing to Get Every Child Ready to Read

Books with Rhyme and Poetry



Animal Trunk: Silly Poems to Read Aloud written by Charles Ghigna; illustrated by Gabriel. H. N. Abrams, 1999.
Simple poems about the animal kingdom are enhanced by beautiful illustrations by Belgian artist Gabriel.

Be Glad Your Nose Is on Your Face and Other Poems written by Jack Prelutsky; illustrated by Brandon Dorman. Greenwillow Books, 2008.
This analogy of U.S. Children's Poet Laureate Jack Prelutsky's poems includes fifteen new poems paired with beautiful illustrations that add an additional layer to the other crafty, witty poems.

Chicken Soup with Rice written and illustrated by Maurice Sendak. HarperCollins, 1991.
A boy expresses his love for eating chicken soup with rice throughout the year with a poem for each month.

Down by the Station written and illustrated by Will Hillenbrand. Harcourt, 1999.
Beautiful illustrations accompany this familiar song about a group of baby animals on their way to the zoo. Music on the last page encourages children to sing-along and participate.

Green Eggs and Ham written and illustrated by Dr. Seuss. Random House, 1988.
The classic story follows Sam I Am as he tries to convince a young friend that green eggs and ham are great and should be eaten everywhere.

How Do You Wokka-Wokka? written by Elizabeth Bluemle. Candlewick Press, 2009.
Jazzy rhythms, silly rhymes, and bright illustrations accompany this zany tale of a group of multiethnic children who "wokka-wokka, shimmy-shake, and shocka-shocka" ending in a fun celebration with their neighbors.

Magic Hat written by Mem Fox; illustrated by Tricia Tusa. Harcourt, 2002.
A magical hat, leaving a trail of sparkles and glitter, turns the townspeople into fun-loving animals, and readers are drawn into the mystery of what animal the next person will turn into.

Miss Polly Has a Dolly written by Pamela Duncan Edwards; illustrated by Elicia Castaldi. Putnam, 2003.
Children will enjoy reading along to this expanded version of the popular street rhyming chant (Miss Polly has a dolly who is sick, sick, sick).

Rhyming Dust Bunnies written and illustrated by Jan Thomas. Beach Lane Books, 2009.

A group of rhyming dust bunnies encounter resistance from a fourth dust bunny, only to learn that he is trying to warn them of impending danger from the broom and vacuum cleaner.

Sheep in a Jeep written by Nancy E. Shaw; illustrated by Margot Apple. Houghton Mifflin, 1986.
A group of five sheep get into all sorts of shenanigans in this fun rhyming misadventure.

Such a Silly Baby! written by Richard and Steffanie Lorig; illustrated by Amanda Shepherd. Chronicle Books, 2007.
Fun rhyming book about a mother who can't keep up with her bustling baby. The baby gets switched with a chimpanzee but ends up having a great time at the zoo.

Sylvia Long's Mother Goose written and illustrated by Sylvia Long. Chronicle Books, 1999.
A beautifully illustrated, unique, and imaginative take on the familiar Mother Goose nursery rhymes.

Toes Have Wiggles, Kids Have Giggles written by Harriet Ziefert; illustrated by Rebecca Doughty. Putnam, 2002.
Whimsical and fun book that uses great illustrations to provide a different look at everyday objects and experiences.

Where the Sidewalk Ends written and illustrated by Shel Silverstein. HarperCollins, 1974.
Classic collection of the author/illustrator's light verse accompanied by humorous drawings.

For more ideas see
www.songsforteaching.com.

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Singing to Get Every Child Ready to Read

Books That You Can Sing



Down by the Station written and illustrated by Will Hillenbrand. Harcourt, 1999.

Beautiful illustrations accompany this familiar song about a group of baby animals on their way to the zoo.

Five Little Ducks written by Raffi; illustrated by Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey. Turtleback, 1992.

Mother Duck begins to lose her ducklings one by one, so she sets out to find them. The whole song ends happily as the family reunites.

Good Night, Gorilla written and illustrated by Peggy Rathmann. Putnam, 1994.

A little gorilla steals the zookeeper's keys, unlocks the cages of the other animals, and the whole group follows the zookeeper to his house.

Hush Little Baby written and illustrated by Sylvia Long. Chronicle Books, 1997.

Long reworks this classic nursery song with the mother bunny showing her baby the wonders of the world, instead of buying things as in the typical version of this song.

I Ain't Gonna Paint No More! written by Karen Beaumont; illustrated by David Catrow. Harcourt, 2005. Based on the song "It Ain't Gonna Rain No More," this zany story follows a boy who paints everything including his body. Vibrant illustrations add to the fun and the rhythmic text can be read or sung.

Little White Duck written by Walt Whippo; music by Bernard Zaritzky; illustrated by Joan Paley. Little, Brown, 2002.

Imaginative and vibrant illustrations accompany this silly song that includes the sounds of animals having a good time in the water (until a snake comes along).

Mary Had a Little Lamb written by Mary Ann Hoberman; illustrated by Nadine Bernard Westcott. Little, Brown, 2003.

Playful extension of the classic nursery rhyme, this continuation of Mary's saga adds additional layers to her friendship with the lamb.

Old MacDonald Had a Woodshop written by Lisa M. Schulman; illustrated by Ashley Wolff. Putnam, 2002.

In this book Old MacDonald is a sheep who enlists the help of his animal friends to build a farm.

Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes

written by Eric Litwin; illustrated by James Dean. HarperCollins, 2010.

Pete the Cat goes walking down the street wearing his brand-new white shoes. Along the way, his shoes change from white to red to blue to brown to wet as he steps in piles of strawberries, blueberries, and other big messes.

Skip to My Lou adapted by Mary Ann Hoberman; illustrated by Nadine Bernard Westcott. Little, Brown, 2000.

An easy-to-handle board book about a little boy who befriends a group of farm animals after they make a huge mess while his parents are gone.

The Seals on the Bus written by Lenny Hort; illustrated by G. Brian Karas. Henry Holt, 2000.

Set to the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus," the author adds many different animals to this fun bus adventure.

There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly written and illustrated by Simms Taback. Viking, 1997.

This quirky book uses a die-cut hole to show the contents of the old lady's stomach and also all the funny things that she swallowed. A Caldecott Honor Book.

We're Going on a Bear Hunt written by Michael Rosen; illustrated by Helen Oxenbury. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1989.

A family of five goes on a hunt for a bear across rivers, grass, and mud, only to be chased back to their home by the bear.

Yankee Doodle written by Mary Ann Hoberman; illustrated by Nadine Bernard. Little, Brown, 2004.

A fun expansion on the Yankee Doodle song, this musical book adds additional characters, imaginative scenery, and the opening of a restaurant, Yankee Doodle's Noodles.

For more ideas see
www.songsforteaching.com.

Reading to Help Every Child Get Ready to Read

Books with Rich Language



An Alphabet of Dinosaurs written by Peter Dodson; illustrated by Wayne D. Barlowe. Scholastic, 1995.

This beautifully illustrated book features twenty-six dinosaurs, one for every letter of the alphabet. Illustrations are accompanied by facts about these monsters of the Mesozoic.

Big Plans written by Bob Shea; illustrated by Lane Smith. Hyperion, 2008.

Delightful illustrations accompany this amusing tale of a little boy and his plan for world domination, though right now he is stuck in a time-out corner.

Bubble Trouble written by Margaret Mahy; illustrated by Polly Dunbar. Clarion Books, 2009.

Baby is trapped in a bubble blown by older sister Mabel and floats across the neighborhood. Everybody comes together to form a human ladder to rescue the baby.

Buying, Training, and Caring for Your Dinosaur written by Laura Joy Rennert; illustrated by Marc Brown. Knopf, 2009.

Exuberant illustrations accompany this humorous guide to selecting and caring for pet dinosaurs.

Chrysanthemum written and illustrated by Kevin Henkes. Greenwillow Books, 1991.

Chrysanthemum used to love her name, but became weary of it when she started school and her name became a joke amongst her classmates. With the support of her family, and a surprise from a teacher, Chrysanthemum and her classmates learn to love and accept her special name.

First to Fly: How Wilbur and Orville Wright Invented the Airplane written by Peter Busby; illustrated by David Craig. Crown, 2002.

Gorgeous illustrations are paired with informative text about the work of the Wright brothers. Includes archival photographs and diagrams.

I Stink! written and illustrated by Jim and Kate McMullan. HarperCollins, 2002.

A big city garbage truck stars in this engaging book about the importance of garbage collection, as he goes around the city eating everybody's garbage.

M Is for Music written by Kathleen Krull; illustrated by Stacy Innerst. Harcourt, 2003.

This unique alphabet book introduces musical terms from allegro to zydeco and includes humorous collage-type illustrations.

Make Way for Ducklings written and illustrated by

Robert McCloskey. Viking, 1941.

In this classic and well-loved tale, Mr. and Mrs. Mallard search for a home for their duckling family. With help from a policeman named Michael, they are able to navigate the busy city streets.

On Noah's Ark written and illustrated by Jan Brett. Putnam, 2003.

The familiar story of Noah's ark is told from his granddaughter's point of view, as she helps her grandfather calm the animals and keep them comfortable.

Otis written and illustrated by Loren Long. Philomel Books, 2009.

Otis the tractor lives a happy life on the farm with his little calf friend, until a new yellow tractor replaces him. Surprisingly it is only Otis who can come to the rescue when the little calf gets into trouble.

Skippyjon Jones written and illustrated by Judy Schachner. Dutton, 2003.

Colorful illustrations accompany this humorous and whimsical tale of a Siamese kitten who imagines he is a Chihuahua.

Something from Nothing: Adapted from a Jewish Folktale written and illustrated by Phoebe Gilman. Scholastic, 1993.

This modern adaptation of a Jewish folktale describes how the blanket Grandfather made for young Joseph is transformed over the years into a jacket, a button, and, ultimately, a story.

The Story of Ruby Bridges written by Robert Coles; illustrated by George Ford. Scholastic, 1995.

Powerful story of six-year-old Ruby Bridges who confronted the hostility of white parents when she became the first African American girl to attend Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans in 1960.

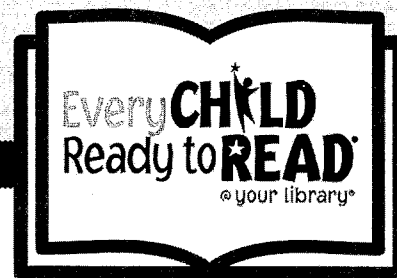
The Gods and Goddesses of Olympus written and illustrated by Ailiki. Turtleback, 1997.

An introduction to the gods and goddesses of Greek mythology brought to life by beautiful illustrations and intriguing text.

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Reading to Get Every Child Ready to Read

Books About Science and Math



Air Is Everywhere written by Melissa Stewart. Compass Point Books, 2004.

Provides interesting facts about air, along with photographs and experiments that will help readers understand the power and force of air.

Biggest, Strongest, Fastest written and illustrated by Steve Jenkins. Houghton Mifflin, 1995.

Illustrated with cut paper collages, this book is an appealing introduction to the 'world records' held by 14 animals with unique characteristics—the anaconda, which can swallow a whole goat or the Etruscan shrew, a mammal so small it can sleep in a teaspoon.

Cottontails: Little Rabbits of Field and Forest (Kids Want to Know Series) written by Ron Fisher. National Geographic Society, 1995.

Informational text and beautiful photography explores the lives of fourteen types of cottontail rabbits and their environments. Includes additional information about rabbits from around the world.

Count Down to Fall written by Fran Hawk; illustrated by Sherry Neidigh. Sylvan Dell, 2009.

Vibrant and detailed illustrations accompany rhyming verse to explore the season, the trees, the leaves, and the woodland animals, all while counting down from ten to one.

An Egg Is Quiet written by Dianna Aston; illustrated by Sylvia Long. Chronicle Books, 2006.

Wonderfully illustrated introduction to eggs for young readers; includes an array of facts on 60 types of eggs.

Find the Constellations written and illustrated by H.A. Rey. HMH Books, 2008.

H.A. Rey, the author and illustrator behind the Curious George books, provides an enjoyable and informative guide to the constellations and stargazing.

How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin? written by Margaret McNamara; illustrated by G. Brian Karas. Schwartz & Wade, 2007

A teacher brings in a variety of pumpkins and has her students guess the number of seeds in the pumpkins. Charlie, who is the smallest boy in the class, feels frustrated when he has to guess last but is surprised when they crack open the pumpkins.

I Face the Wind written by Vicki Cobb; illustrated

by Julia Gorton. HarperCollins, 2003.

Irresistible illustrations and simple facts combine to teach young readers the properties of air. The book also includes instructions for easy experiments that will excite and interest budding scientists.

I Love Dirt!: 52 Activities to Help You and Your Kids Discover the Wonders of Nature written by Jennifer Ward; illustrated by Susie Ghahremani; foreword by Richard Louv. Trumpeter, 2008.

Includes 52 fun, interactive activities to help children engage with the outdoors. From the city to the wide-open meadows of the country—each activity is meant to promote exploration, stimulate imagination, and heighten a child's sense of wonder.

Janice VanCleave's Big Book of Play and Find Out Science Projects (Janice VanCleave's Science for Fun) written by Janice Pratt VanCleave. Jossey-Bass, 2007.

This fun, activity-driven book introduces children to four scientific arenas: physical science, nature, bugs, and the human body.

Lots of Ladybugs! Counting by Fives written by Michael Dahl; illustrated by Todd Ouren. Picture Window Books, 2005.

In this delightful book about counting, readers are introduced to counting by finding hidden numbers and counting spots on the back of ladybugs.

Magic School Bus: Inside the Human Body written by Joanna Cole; illustrated by Bruce Degen. Scholastic, 1990.

Ms. Fizzle, an unorthodox teacher, takes her class on a magical trip inside the body of one of the students in order to teach them about the workings of the human body.

Spiders by Nic Bishop. Scholastic Nonfiction, 2007.

Realistic photographs accompany this informative resource on spiders. Includes plenty of interesting facts that will have readers wanting to read more about arachnids.

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Reading to Get Every Child Ready to Read

Books About Science and Math, *cont.*



Teddy Bear Counting written by Barbara Barbieri McGrath; illustrated Tim Nihoff. Charlesbridge, 2010.

Clever gummy bear-themed rhyming/counting book that also teaches color recognition, basic shapes, and adding/subtracting.

Tyrannosaurus Math written by Michelle Markel; illustrated by Doug Cushman. Tricycle Press, 2009.

T-Math is a fun-loving dinosaur who also happens to be a math whiz. His advanced skills in math become invaluable when his sister encounters danger and needs help.

Wings written by Sneed B. Collard; illustrated by Robin Brickman. Charlesbridge, 2008.

A captivating overview of winged creatures including insects, bats, and birds, this fascinating book also includes a glossary and recommended works.

W is for Wind: A Weather Alphabet written by Pat Michaels; illustrated by Melanie Rose. Sleeping Bear Press, 2005.

This easy-to-follow alphabet book presents facts about the weather in a fun and engaging way and introduces readers to weather-related terms.

Whales written by Simon Seymour. HarperCollins, 2006.

Dramatic photographs accompany this informative look at whales and their habits and habitats.

You Can't Taste a Pickle With Your Ear written by Harriet Ziefert; illustrated by Amanda Haley. Blue Apple Books, 2002.

A great tool for teaching young children about the five senses, this whimsical yet accurate book provides information on the eyes, fingers, ears, nose, and mouth.

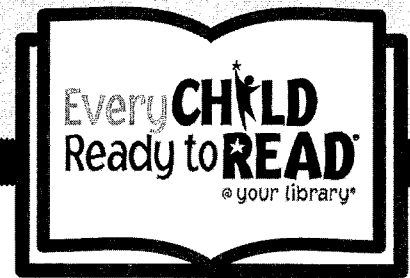
You Can't Use Your Brain If You're a Jellyfish written by Fred Ehrlich; illustrated by Amanda Haley. Blue Apple Books, 2005.

This book explores the disparity between brains, teaching readers about small animals with small brains, large animals with large brains, primates, and the biggest primate brain of all—the human brain.

For more math ideas check out
<http://mixinginmath.terc.edu/>

Writing to Get Every Child Ready to Read

Books for Fun with Letters



A to Z written and illustrated by Sandra Boynton. Little Simon, 1984.

Using fun animal characters, Boynton introduces the alphabet to young children in this board book.

ABC, I Like Me! written and illustrated by Nancy L. Carlson. Viking, 1997.

From the author of *I Like Me!* comes a book about a group of animal friends who encourage themselves and each other by using words from each letter of the alphabet.

ABC T-Rex written and illustrated by Bernard Most. Harcourt, 2000.

T-Rex expresses his love for the alphabet as he eats his way through the letters in various settings.

Alphabatics written and illustrated by Suse MacDonald. Aladdin, 1992.

A creative look at the alphabet where an A can become an Ark or a C becomes the smile of a Clown.

Alphabeasties and Other Amazing Types written by Sharon Werner and Sarah Forss. Blue Apple Books, 2009.

Using different fonts and typefaces this amazing book features animals created from letters.

Alphabet Rescue written by Audrey Wood; illustrated by Bruce Wood. Blue Sky Press, 2006.

Bright and bold pictures illustrate the story of the little letters of the alphabet and their big adventure.

Alphabet Under Construction written and illustrated by Denise Fleming. Henry Holt, 2006.

A mouse starts up the big construction project of building the alphabet and uses all sorts of fun methods like airbrushing, buttoning, and carving until all the letters are done.

Animal Antics: A to Z written and illustrated by Anita Lobel. Greenwillow Books, 2005.

This richly illustrated book explores a circus theme, with each page featuring an animal name and an adjective (adoring alligators, charming camels).

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom

written by Bill

Martin Jr. and John Archambault; illustrated by Lois Ehlert. Little Simon, 2006.

Fun rhyming book in which the whole alphabet family decides to climb up a coconut tree.

Creature ABC written and photographed by Andrew Zuckerman. Chronicle Books, 2009.

Zuckerman uses his gorgeous animal photography to introduce the alphabet.

Curious George Learns the Alphabet written and illustrated by H.A. Rey. HMH Books, 1973.

The Man With the Yellow Hat shows Curious George how to read the letters of the alphabet.

Eating the Alphabet: Fruits and Vegetables From A to Z written and illustrated by Lois Ehlert. Harcourt, 1989.

Readers are introduced to fruits and vegetables in this bright, bold alphabet book.

Into the A, B, Sea: An Ocean Alphabet Book written by Deborah Lee Rose; illustrated by Steve Jenkins. Scholastic, 2000.

This beautiful book of collages captures curiosities of the sea and using a rhyming text, introduces various sea creatures in alphabetical order.

Kipper's A to Z: An Alphabet Adventure written and illustrated by Mick Inkpen. Harcourt, 2001.

Playful puppy Kipper and his pig friend, Arnold, go on an adventure to collect items from every letter of the alphabet.

Old Black Fly written by Jim Aylesworth; illustrated by Stephen Gammell. Henry Holt, 1992.

An old black fly gets into all sorts of trouble while encountering things in alphabetical order, causing a fuss until he meets his fate in the hands of a fly swatter.

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Writing to Get Every Child Ready to Read

Books for Fun with Letters, *cont.*



Ox, House, Stick: The History of our Alphabet written by Don Robb; illustrated by Anne Smith. Charlesbridge, 2007. Vibrant illustrations and clear prose show young readers the origins of the Roman alphabet.

Read Anything Good Lately? written by Susan Allen and Jane Lindaman; illustrated by Vicky Enright. Milbrook Press, 2003.

Readers will relate to the protagonist as she tries to get her hands on reading materials because she loves to read. Everything is listed in alphabetical order, from atlas and biographies to the zodiac.

The Turn-Around, Upside-Down Alphabet

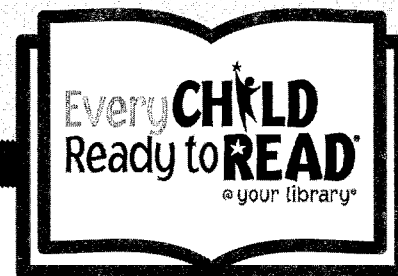
Book written and illustrated by Lisa Campbell Ernst. Simon & Schuster, 2004.

This innovative alphabet book encourages readers to examine each letter very closely, as the letters transform into different objects depending on how the book is held.

For more ideas check out
www.preschoolrainbow.org/alphabet.htm.

Playing to Help Every Child Get Ready to Read

Books with Movement, Props, or Puppets



Bigger Than Daddy written by Harriet Ziefert; illustrated by Elliot Kreloff. Blue Apple Books, 2006.

A small boy longs to be like his father, and they end up playing a game where they switch roles.

Bunny Cakes written and illustrated by Rosemary Wells. Viking, 1999.

Brother and sister bunnies, Max and Ruby, want to bake cakes for their grandma's birthday. The grocer cannot read their list until Max turns it into easy-to-understand drawings for the grocer.

Cinderella adapted by Barbara Karlin; illustrated by James Marshall. Turtleback, 2001.

Children will enjoy this retelling of the classic tale and will find hilarious and nonsensical details in the amusing illustrations.

Dancing in My Bones written by Sylvia Andrews; illustrated by Ellen Mueller. HarperFestival, 2001.

A group of multiethnic friends dance and play to an adorable rhyme that will get readers moving as well.

From Head to Toe written and illustrated by Eric Carle. HarperFestival, 1997.

This fun question and answer book leads readers through various exercise routines by following the movements of various animals.

Gunnwolf written by Wilhelmina Harper; illustrated by Barbara Upton. Dutton, 2003.

A little girl, warned to never to go into the jungle, encounters the Gunnwolf when she gets lost in her search for flowers.

If You're Happy and You Know It written and illustrated by James Warhola. Orchard Books, 2007.

Jungle animals come to life in a playground and encourage a little boy and his older sister to express their happiness through voice and movement.

Strega Nona written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola. Simon & Schuster, 1975.

When Strega Nona hires Big Anthony to help with her chores she warns him never to touch her enchanted pasta pot which produces pasta at the command of a spell. When she leaves to visit Strega Amelia, Big Anthony gets into trouble with the pasta pot.

Tacky the Penguin written by Helen Lester; illustrated

by Lynn Munsinger. Houghton Mifflin, 1988.

Tacky the penguin, an unconventionally loud and scheming penguin disliked by his peers, ends up being the hero when he comes up with plans against hunters that threaten his group's survival.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear: A Traditional Rhyme adapted and illustrated by Timothy Bush. Greenwillow Books, 2005.

In this beautifully illustrated version of the beloved rhyme "Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear" readers will follow a teddy bear's adventures trying to get home.

The Gingerbread Boy adapted and illustrated by Paul Galdone. Clarion Books, 1975.

An old couple bakes a gingerbread boy because they are childless, but the gingerbread boy runs away and escapes from various hungry predators. In the end, however, the gingerbread boy is unable to escape his fate when he meets the wily fox.

The Three Bears adapted and illustrated by Paul Galdone. HMH Books, 2011.

The familiar story of the three bears and Goldilocks is enhanced by beautiful illustrations as well as the use of different font types.

The Three Billy Goats Gruff adapted and illustrated by Paul Galdone. Clarion Books, 1973.

Galdone adds appealing illustrations to the classic story of three billy goat brothers that must confront a scary troll.

Three Little Pigs written and illustrated by David Gordon. HarperCollins, 2005.

An adaptation of the story of the three little pigs, this story focuses on three little pigs who try to save their newly built garages against a big, bad wrecking ball.

We're Going on a Bear Hunt written by Michael Rosen; illustrated by Helen Oxenbury. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1989.

A family of five goes on a hunt for a bear across rivers, grass, and mud, only to be chased back to their home by the bear.