

Book List

Recommended Books for Preschool Children

I Love My Pirate Papa by Laura Leuck (Harcourt). “I love my pirate papa! He’s the bravest buccaneer. He helps me put my earring on and buckles up my gear.” Then, together, the wee mate and his pirate daddy have a great adventure aboard their ship—and share a great love for each other!

Peek in My Pocket by David A. Carter (Harcourt). Each jazzy pop-up critter has a mysterious, secret something in its pocket. But what? Snoop inside to see! With so many flaps to flip and tabs to tug, curious fingers are sure to stay busy while curious brains learn about shapes and colors.

I Like It When ... /Me gusta cuando ... by Mary Murphy (Harcourt). “I like it when you hug me tight. Me gusta cuando me das un abrazo muy fuerte.” That’s just one of the many things the baby penguin enjoys in this simple English/Spanish tale of love and cuddling. A charming story for baby book-worms.

Planting a Rainbow by Lois Ehlert (Harcourt). Petite seeds may go into the ground, but a rainbow pops out! From red and blue petals to bright green leaves, the garden explodes into a bouquet of color and life. A chunky book of happy hues for the newest readers (and gardeners).

Silly Lilly and the Four Seasons by Agnès Rosenstiehl (Toon Books). There’s lots to do all year round! So follow Lilly from panel to panel as

she explores spring, summer, winter and fall. It’s an excellent way to learn about the seasons – and a nice introduction to the world of comics!

Oscar’s Party by Etsuko Watanabe (Bloomsbury). It’s a very special day for Oscar the alligator, so get busy! Lift the flaps! Spin the wheel! Skate your fingers across the shiny mirrors! There’s a ton for tiny readers to pull, grab, twist and bend in this interactive story of birthday-boy Oscar and his scaly family.



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Bebé Goes to the Beach by Susan Middleton Elya (Harcourt). When Bebé hits the beach, “He’s wearing his gorro with fuzzy jirafas. Mamá parks her silla and puts on her gafas.” Bold, splashy colors and English-Spanish rhymes make this a wonderful bilingual romp for language-loving readers!

Potato Joe by Keith Baker (Harcourt). “One potato, two potato, hello, Joe! Three potato, four potato, tic-tac-toe!” It may not be the usual rhyme, but these aren’t the usual potatoes! Instead, they’re playful tubers who romp and roll as they count up to 10 and back down again.

Stuck in the Mud by Jane Clarke (Walker). One of hen’s chicks is caught in the mud. But as the farm critters try to help, they get trapped, too. Oh, no! Can they save the poor chick? They don’t have to! He was never stuck to begin with – he was just playing in the icky, sticky stuff!

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Mrs. Biddlebox by Linda Smith (Harcourt). “On a grubby little hill, in a dreary little funk, Mrs. Biddlebox rolled over on the wrong side of her bunk. The birds gave her a headache. There were creakies in her chair. A breeze blew dank and dreary and mussied up her hair.” What to do? Bake the day into a cake!

Get Up, Rick! by F. Isabel Campoy (Harcourt). Yikes! Rick the rooster overslept! Who will “cock-a-doodle-do” the other barnyard animals awake? Rick will, of course, as soon as he gets an alarm clock. See if that does the trick in this spare, silly tale for silly-tale-loving readers.

Rabbit’s Gift by George Shannon (Harcourt). Rabbit doesn’t need an extra turnip on the cold, cold morning, but he knows who does – Donkey! Hmm, wonders Donkey. Who left the tasty treat? Perhaps it was Goat. Well, thinks Goat, who is next given the yummy bite, Deer must’ve left it . . .

What Will Fat Cat Sit On? by Jan Thomas (Harcourt). Should Fat Cat plop down on the cow? No! How about on the pig? No way! The mouse? Never! Fat Cat can sit on the fluffy chair. Whew! But, wait! Now Fat Cat is hungry. What—or whom—should he eat? Quick, everybody scatter!

Bow-Wow hears things by Mark Newgarden and Megan Montague Cash (Harcourt). Does the yellow pup hear the oink? Nope. The splash? Nah. The tick-tock? Not at all! Then what does he hear? Figure it out in this chubby book filled with rich, bright colors and very few words.

Ridin’ Dinos with Buck Bronco by George McClements (Harcourt). Yee-haw! It’s time to saddle up some big ol’ dinosaurs! But we’re not just ridin’ the critters—we need to feed ‘em, clean ‘em and bed ‘em down, too. Heck, we might even

learn a fact or two about the giant fellas while we’re at it!

I’m Looking for a Monster! by Timothy Young (Random House). Nope, this monster is too slimy. That one is too scary. And the one over there has too many antlers. Darn it! The perfect monster has to be around here somewhere! So raise the flaps, pull the tabs and spin the wheel to find him.

Where’s My Hug? by James Mayhew (Bloomsbury). If Jake doesn’t want Mom’s hug, she’ll just give it to Dad. Then Dad will give it to the cat . . . and so on. Eventually, a fierce dragon snags Jake’s hug. Will the boy ever get it back? Maybe he should’ve hung onto it in the first place!

Kindergarten Rocks! by Katie Davis (Harcourt). “I am Dexter Dugan and I know everything about kindergarten.” How? Because his big sister Jessie went there once, too! But what if school is really huge, loud and scary? Will Dex still like it? Sure! After all, kindergarten rocks!

Little Rat Makes Music by Monika Bang-Campbell (Harcourt). Practice makes perfect, but try telling that to Little Rat. She adores playing her violin, but when it comes to practicing? She hates it, hates it, hates it! Can gentle

Miss Wingbutton inspire her whiskered pupil to buckle down?

TONGA The African Elephant Story, by Debbie Buttar (GMEC Publishing). Tonga is a curious elephant who thinks she is living in the African plains. But as she takes off exploring, she soon discovers that things are not exactly as they seem.

Sleep Tight by B. G. Hennessy (Viking). Sshh! All through the town, kids and critters are getting ready to snooze. Simple rhymes and drawings will make this one a bedtime favorite.



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