

Children's Books for Playful Learning

Books for drama and encouraging talk

- *Gingerbread Baby* by Jan Brett
- *Miss Nelson Is Missing* by Harry G. Allard (illustrated by James Marshall)
- *Barn Dance!* by Bill Martin, Jr. (illustrated by John Archambault)
- *The Doorbell Rang* by Pat Hutchins
- *Leonardo, the Terrible Monster* by Mo Willems
- Frog and Toad Books by Arnold Lobel
- *Alexander the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* by Judith Viorst
- *Aesop's Fables*, compiled by Lisbeth Zwerger

Books with humor

- *Look Out, Jack! The Giant Is Back!* by Tom Birdseye (illustrated by Will Hillenbrand)
- *Beware of the Storybook Wolves* by Lauren Child
- *Snow White in New York* by Fiona French
- *The Frog Prince Cont'd* by Jon Scieszka

Books that promote interacting with print knowledge

(how print is organized, vocabulary, meaning of words, role of words, directionality)

- *Each Peach Pear Plum* by Janet Ahlberg and Allan Ahlberg
- *The Very Busy Spider* by Eric Carle
- *Ten Potatoes in a Pot and Other Counting Rhymes* by Michael Jay Katz
- *Feathers for Lunch* by Lois Ehlert
- *Mama Cat Has Three Kittens* by Denise Fleming
- *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* by Bill Martin, Jr. (illustrated by Eric Carle)
- *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* by Laura Numeroff

Books that encourage narrative understanding

(that build understanding of the sequence of events, the characters and their actions, the setting of the story, the exciting part)

- *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle (sequence of events)
- *Pete's a Pizza* by William Steig (interesting characters)
- *Diary of a Worm* by Doreen Cronin (setting)
- *Clifford's Birthday Party* by Norman Bridwell (high point of interest)
- *A Penguin Pup for Pinkerton* by Steven Kellogg (sequence of events)

- *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats (setting)
- *My Truck Is Stuck!* by Kevin Lewis (illustrated by Daniel Kirk) (setting and environmental print)

Books that address identity

- *Giraffes Can't Dance* by Giles Andreae (illustrated by Guy Parker-Rees)
- *The Princesses Have a Ball* by Teresa Bateman (illustrated by Lynn Cravath)
- *Princess Smartypants* by Babette Cole
- *Prince Cinders* by Babette Cole
- *The Paper Bag Princess* by Robert Munsch (illustrated by Michael Martchenko)
- *Oliver Button Is a Sissy* by Tomie dePaola
- *The Sissy Duckling* by Harvey Fierstein (illustrated by Henry Cole)
- *Priscilla and the Pink Planet* by Nathaniel Hobbie (illustrated by Jocelyn Hobbie)
- *Jump* by Michelle Magorian (illustrated by Jan Ormerod)
- *The Boy Who Cried Fabulous* by Leslea Newman and Peter Ferguson
- *Who's in a Family?* by Robert Skutch (illustrated by Laura Nienhaus)
- *Pugdog* by Andrea U'Ren
- *No Two Snowflakes* by Sheree Fitch (illustrated by Janet Wilson)

Books that address individuality

- *Chester* by Melanie Watt
- *And Tango Makes Three* by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell
- *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes
- *The Sound of Colors* by Jimmy Liao
- *Jackalope* by Janet Stevens
- *Groundhog Gets a Say* by Pamela Curtis Swallow (illustrated by Denise Brunkus)
- *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds
- *Olivia* by Ian Falconer
- *On the Day You Were Born* by Debra Frasier
- *All Dogs Have ADHD* by Kathy Hoopmann
- *Yo! Yes?* by Chris Raschka

Books that promote affirmation, imagination, appreciation of diversity

- *Elmer* by David McKee
- *Not a Box* by Antoinette Portis
- *Just Because I Am* by Lauren Murphy Payne (illustrated by Claudia Rohling)
- *One Hundred Is a Family* by Pam Ryan (illustrated by Benrei Huang)
- *Something from Nothing* by Phoebe Gilman
- *The Important Book* by Margaret Wise Brown
- *Skin Again* by bell hooks (illustrated by Chris Raschka)
- *The Family Book* by Todd Parr
- *The Name Jar* by Yangsook Choi
- *From Far Away* by Robert Munsch (illustrated by Michael Martchenko)
- *My Beautiful Child* by Lisa Desimini (illustrated by Matt Mahurin)
- *Papa's Latkes* by Michelle Edwards (illustrated by Stacey Schuett)
- *The Peace Book* by Todd Parr
- *David Gets in Trouble* by David Shannon
- *Treasure for Lunch* by Shanaa Nanji (illustrated by Yvonne Cathcart)

Books that encourage exploration of feelings

- *Grumpy Bird* by Jeremy Tankard
- *The Teddy Bear* by David McPhail
- *Scaredy Squirrel Makes a Friend* by Melanie Watt
- *Little Mouse's Big Book of Fears* by Emily Gravett
- *Chester's Way* by Kevin Henkes
- *When Sophie Gets Angry — Really, Really Angry . . .* by Molly Bang
- *How Smudge Came* by Nan Gregory (illustrated by Ron Lightburn)
- *Can't You Sleep, Little Bear?* by Martin Waddell (illustrated by Barbara Firth)
- *Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon
- *Feelings* by Alike
- *All About You* by Catherine Anholt and Laurence Anholt
- *A Pocket Full of Kisses* by Audrey Penn (illustrated by Barbara Leonard Gibson)
- *Into My Mother's Arms* by Sharon Jennings (illustrated by Ruth Ohi)
- *Owl Babies* by Martin Waddell (illustrated by Patrick Benson)
- *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn
- *Goggles!* by Ezra Jack Keats
- *Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale* by Mo Willems
- *My Friend Is Sad* by Mo Willems
- *Whoops! But It Wasn't Me* by Lauren Child
- *The Recess Queen* by Alexis O'Neill (illustrated by Laura Huliska-Beith)
- *Franklin the Turtle Books* by Paulette Bourgeois

Books that encourage play with patterning

- *Chicka Chicka 1, 2, 3* by Bill Martin, Jr., Michael Sampson, and Lois Ehlert
- *To Market, to Market* by Anne Miranda (illustrated by Janet Stevens)
- *Bear Wants More* by Karma Wilson (illustrated by Jane Chapman)
- *In the Tall, Tall Grass* by Denise Fleming
- *Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?* by Bill Martin, Jr. (illustrated by Eric Carle)
- *What Game Shall We Play?* by Pat Hutchins
- *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen (illustrated by Helen Oxenbury)