



Family Literacy

Tip Sheets

Types of Books for Young Children

Board books:

- These books are for infants and toddlers.
- The thick cardboard pages are easier for children's small hands and are very durable.
- These books can be wiped off, chewed on and crawled across.
- Check for safety – are there parts that will rip off and could be a choking hazard?

Folktales and Fairytales:

- These can be traditional tales or more contemporary ones.
- The original stories have been passed on from one person to the next by word of mouth.
- Each culture has its own stories; however, many cultures have differing versions of the same story.

Information or Concept books:

- These books usually explore one subject, like the alphabet, counting or shapes.
- They may use just pictures or pictures and words.

Picture books:

- In these books, much of the meaning comes through the pictures.
- Readers can jump from words to pictures and back.
- The pictures support the printed word.

Predictable books:

- Patterns are repeated throughout these books.

- The reader can join in the repeated parts and actively experience the book.
- Predicting and repetition help children understand how stories are organized.
- Read these books with a child rather than to a child.

Simple Themes and Stories:

- These books go a step beyond the naming and pointing type of book.
- They feature one main character, few words on a page, a repetitive style and objects or situations that are connected in some way.

Touch and Feel, or Tactile books:

- These books encourage exploration.
- They may have flaps to open, buttons to push, different textures, noises, thicknesses and sliding pieces.
- Check for safety. Don't give a child a book that has a long cord or a piece that could break off and be swallowed.

Wordless books:

- These books have few or no words. The illustrations tell the story.
- These books can lead to conversation or story telling and encourage children to talk about what they see in the pictures.
- These are great for children and parents whose first language is not English. Use your own language or use the English words you know to tell the story.

Developed by the Centre for Family Literacy with support from the Parent-Child Literacy Strategy, Community Programs, Alberta Government.

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Recommended Board Books

Infant List (0 – 12 months)

Baby Faces Series – *Eat!, Sleep, Splash, Hugs and Kisses*. Roberta Grobel Interater.

Baby Love Series – *Baby Animals, Counting Toes, I See, Toys That Go*

DK* Baby's World Series – *Out and About*

Big Fat Hen. Keith Baker.

Bright Baby Series – *Trucks, First Words*

Come Along Daisy. Jane Simmons.

DK* Giant Flaps Series – *Baby Talk, Noisy Trucks, Noisy Farm*

Happy Baby Words, Happy Baby 1,2,3

Hush Little Baby. Sylvia Long.

Look Baby! Books – *Baby Faces, Baby Food, Me and My Bear, Get Ready Baby*. Margaret Miller.

DK* Peek a Boo Series – *Playtime, Bathtime, Baby Says*

Peek - a - Who? Nina Laden.

Pyjama Time. Sandra Boynton.

Snuggle Puppy. Sandra Boynton.

(**Note:** any of the Sandra Boynton books for language play would be suitable)

Time for Bed. Mem Fox.

Touch the Bunny. Jacqueline McQuade.

DK* Touch and Feel Series – *Pets, Farm, Bedtime, Bathtime, Home*

* DK - Dorling Kindersley

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Toddler List (12 – 36 months)

Are You My Mother? P.D. Eastman.

Babies on the Go. Linda Ashman.

DK* Baby Fun Series: *One Little Duck, Five in the Bed, Old McDonald.*

Big Red Barn, The. Margaret Wise Brown.

Big Wheels. Anne Rockwell.

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? Bill Martin Jr.

Busy Fingers. C.W. Bowie.

Castles, Caves and Honeycombs.
Linda Ashman.

Digger Man. Andrea Zimmerman.

DK* Lift the Flap Series: *Farm Animals, Colors, Shapes, Opposites, Things that Go*

Each Peach, Pear Plum. Janet Ahlberg.

Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed. Eileen Christlow.

Good Night Moon. Margaret Wise Brown.

Goodnight My Duckling. Nancy Tafuri.

Hands Can. Cheryl Williams Hudson.

Head and Shoulders Knees and Toes,
and other action rhymes.
Zita Newcome.

I Went Walking. Sue Williams.

I Wish I Were a Pilot. Stella Blackstone.

Ladybird Lift the Flap Book Series:
Whose Feet, Whose Nose, Whose Spots

Leo's Tree. Deborah Pearson.

Little Quack. Lauren Thompson.

Little Loon and Papa. Toni Buzzeo.

Mommy's Best Kisses. Margaret Anastas.

Moo, Moo Brown Cow. Jakki Wood.

My Bedtime Book of Favourite Nursery Rhymes. Louise Rupnik.

My First Books Series: *Animal, Word, Number, Farm, Baby Animals*

My First Touch and Feel series: *Baby Animals, Farm, Kitten Puppy*

The Napping House. Audrey Wood.

Oh My Oh My Oh Dinosaurs.
Sandra Boynton.

One Duck Stuck. Phyllis Root.

Red is Best. Kathy Stinson.

This Little Piggy. Jane Yolen.

Touch and Feel Books: *Jungle Animals, Fire Truck, Tractor*

* DK - Dorling Kindersley

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Pre-School List (3 – 5 years)

Alphabet Under Construction.

Denise Fleming.

A New House For A Mouse. Petr Horacek.

Bear Wants More. Karma Wilson.

Beneath the Bridge. Hazel Hutchins.

Big Sarah's Little Boots.

Paulette Bourgeois.

Busy Fingers. C.W. Bowie.

Can You Make a Piggy Giggle?

Linda Ashman.

Chicka, Chicka Boom Boom. Bill Martin Jr.

Counting Cockatoos. Stella Blackstone.

Drumheller Dinosaur Dance.

Robert Heidbreder.

Eentsy Weentsy Spider, The. *Fingerplays and Action Rhymes.* Joanna Cole.

Elusive Moose. Claire Beaton.

Farmer Joe's Hot Day. Nancy Wilcox Richards.

Farmer Will. Jane Fletcher.

Harry's Box. Angela McAllister.

I'd Know You Anywhere. Hazel Hutchins.

If you Give a Mouse a Cookie.

Laura Numeroff.

I Know an Old Lady. Rose Bonne.

I Love You little One. Nancy Tafuri.

Is Your Mama a Llama? Deborah Guarino.

It Looked Like Spilt Milk. Charles Shaw.

Little Toby and the Big Hair.

Eugenie Fernandes.

Machines at Work Series – Cranes, Tractor, Planes

My Little Sister Ate One Hare.

Bill Grossman.

Norman's Snowball. Hazel Hutchins.

One Dog Canoe. Mary Cassanova.

One Small Place in a Tree.

Barbara Brenner.

Polly's Picnic. Richard Hamilton.

Silly Sally. Audrey Wood.

Slithery Jake. Rose-Marie Provencher.

Some Dogs Do. Jez Alborough.

The Trucker. Brenda & Mark Weatherby.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar. Eric Carle.

The Way to Wyatt's House.

Nancy Carlstrom.

Up Above and Down Below.

Sue Redding.

Waves in the Bathtub.

Eugenie Fernandes.

When The Moon Smiled. Petr Horacek.

Who is the Beast? Keith Baker.

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Books for ELL* Parents to Read with their Children

Many of the children's books listed for infant to pre-school age are very suitable for parents whose first language is not English to read with their children. Text is limited and repetitive, which lends itself to easy mastery on the part of the parent or caregiver; in addition, the language of the text will foster the children's English oral language development.

However, it should be noted that many ELL adults might feel more comfortable sharing text with their youngsters in their native language. To that end, wordless picture books are an ideal source for ELL adults to foster a love of books in their children, as they talk about the pictures in the books in their home language.

Wordless Picture Books

Alligator's Toothache. D. De Groat.

A Boy, a Dog, and a Frog. M. Mayer.

Bobo's Dream. M. Alexander.

Deep in the Forest. B. Turkle.

Frog, Where are You? Mercer Mayer.

Good Dog. Carl A. Day.

Home. Jeannie Baker.

Hug. Jez Ahlborough.

The Hunter and the Animals.
Tomie de Paola.

Is it Red? Is it Yellow? Is it Blue?

Tana Hoban & others in series.

One Frog Too Many. Mercer Mayer.

Pancakes for Breakfast. Tomie de Paola

Rain. Peter Spier.

Rosie's Walk. P. Hutchins.

The Silver Pony. L. Ward.

The Snowman. Raymond Briggs.

Tall. Jez Ahlborough.

Where is Monkey? D. Schubert.

* English Language Learners

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