

Best Books for 4's & 5's

Predicting

...helps children learn to guess how stories work.

Ask, "What do you think happens next?"

Bunny Cakes by Rosemary Wells
Max is having a hard time making cakes with Ruby. What will he mess up next?

Cat Up a Tree by John Hassett
Will the library help get a cat out of a tree, and what will the firefighter say?

Duck on a Bike by David Shannon
Can you imagine such a sight? This book makes you think about what is possible, and what's not!

Teddy Bear by David McPhail
What will the boy do when he loses his best friend in the park? This is a story about compassion and self-sacrifice.

What Do You Do with a Tail Like This? by Steve Jenkins
Learn all about these fascinating animals as you guess why and what and how.

Knowing Letters

...is important to be ready to read.

Help children learn both CAPITAL and lowercase letters.

A is for Salad by Mike Lester
Don't believe everything you read in this book—your children will know what each letter is really for.

All Aboard ABC by Doug Magee
Fans of trains and big machinery will have fun and learn a lot from this book of detailed photos.

Firefighters A to Z by Chris Demarest
Learn more than the alphabet in this exciting book about community helpers.

26 Letters and 99 Cents by Tana Hoban
Here's a great introduction to uppercase and lowercase letters, illustrated with bright photos.

Sound Sensitivity

...helps children think about how letters and their sounds work. Encourage children to play with sounds and letters.

Adventures of Sparrowboy by Brian Pinkney
Action sound words whirl around this young action hero.

I Stink! by Kate & Jim Mullan
This garbage truck makes all kinds of sounds you'll want to imitate—and it loves to eat alphabet garbage soup!

Old MacDonald Had a Woodshop by Lisa Shulman
Just listen to all the sounds these tools make in this new take on an old favorite.

One Sunday Morning by Yumi Heo
Listen to all the sounds as you follow a boy and his father to the park and the zoo on one perfect day.

Rattletrap Car by Phyllis Root
It doesn't go fast and it doesn't go far, but it's fun to ride in the rattletrap car.

Roller Coaster by Marla Frazee
Will she ride? Could she like it? Hop on for an exciting story!



Booklist compiled by Pat Downs, Youth Services

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Minneapolis Public Library, a MELSA Library
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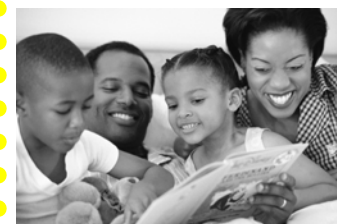
Diane Hofstede

Kathleen M. Lamb

Gregory Gray

Virginia Holte

Laurie Savran



A list of books to help children get ready to read

Sharing books with children

...builds brain power.

Helps them become better readers, writers, and speakers.

Gives you special time together.

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You can find all these books at the Minneapolis public Library.
Ask a librarian for help.

● ● ● Rhyming ● ● ●

...is a way children learn that words are made up of smaller parts.

This helps when they later try to sound out words to read.

Songs also help children hear words broken down into parts.

Look for books with rhymes and songs.

And to Think That I Thought That We'd Never Be Friends by Mary Ann Hoberman
Here's a Seuss-like story that will have children eagerly finishing the sentences.

Ants in My Pants by Wendy Mould
If ants are in your pants, what might be in your socks? You'll have fun rhyming the next reason this boy can't get himself dressed.

Castles, Caves and Honeycombs by Lauren Stringer
Make up your own tune to this soothing lullaby about animal homes.

Clara Caterpillar by Pamela Duncan Edwards
This book cleverly concentrates on beginning sounds.

Do Your Ears Hang Low? A Love Story by Caroline Church
You'll soon be singing and doing the hand movements to this playful tune starring dogs.

Round is a Mooncake by Roseanne Thong
A girl discovers shapes in her world in this celebration of Asian cultures.

Summer Sun Risin' by W. Nickola-Lisa
Bop along with this boy as he spends a fun day on the farm, steering the plow and milking the cow.

Where Did All the Dragons Go? by Fay Robinson
This is one stunning tale children will remember—and maybe even memorize.

● ● ● Repetition ● ● ●

...helps children learn how stories work.
These books also help children to tell part of the story.

House that Jack Built by Simms Taback
Check out the rich illustrations in this new version by an award winner.

Nathaniel Willy, Scared Silly by Judith Mathews
Children quickly learn to repeat Grandma's words and squeal with delight.

There's Only One of Me! by Pat Hutchins
This girl has a big family, with an even bigger surprise at the end of the story.

What! Cried Granny: An Almost Bedtime Story by Kate Lum
You won't believe what this Granny has to do to get her grandson to sleep.

● ● ● Narrative Skills & Summarizing ● ● ●

...help children understand stories.
Once children are familiar with a story, ask them to tell you what happens in the book.
Be encouraging and make it fun!

Big Moon Tortilla by Joy Cowley
How would you respond to these challenges? This is a great book about choices and self-control.

Dora's Opposites/Opuestos De Dora by Phoebe Beinstein
Talk your way through Dora's world in Spanish and English.

D.W.'s Guide to Preschool by Marc Brown
Follow Arthur's sister as she tells us how fun preschool is.

Elizabeti's Doll by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen
You'll never forget this sweet story of life in Tanzania.

Fiesta! Board Book by Ginger Foglesong Guy
Count your way through this party in two different languages.

Gigantic! How Big Were the Dinosaurs by Patrick O'Brien
After reading through this informational book, children will be able to tell you the names and habits of these fascinating creatures.

Kitten Called Moonlight by Martin Waddell
A mother and daughter recall a night that changed their lives.

Widget by Lyn Rossiter McFarland
Giggles and tolerance in the same story? You'll find them in this special dog 'n' cat tale.