

Books for Toddlers

ABC x 3 English, Espanol, Francais by Marthe Jocelyn
Each letter of the alphabet is presented in text in three different languages.

Big Fat Hen by Keith Baker
A brilliantly colored rendition of the counting rhyme “One, Two, Buckle My Shoe.”

Big Yellow Sunflower by Frances Barry
Pages shaped like petals unfold one-by-one to reveal the stages in the life-cycle of a sunflower plant from seed to fully grown plant. (series)

Busy Little Squirrel by Nancy Tafuri
Squirrel’s animal friends invite him to join in with their games but he is too busy preparing his nest for winter (several other great titles by this author).

Butterfly, Butterfly by Petr Horacek
As a little girl searches for a butterfly, she meets several colorful creatures, until finally, she finds the butterfly that pops out of the final page (several other great titles by this author).

Dear Zoo: A Lift-the-Flap Book by Rod Campbell
A classic story of a little boy who asks the zoo for a pet and receives many different unsuitable animals before settling on a puppy.

Do Lions Live on Lily Pads? by Melanie Walsh
Nonsense questions about animal homes are on a perfect level of humor for toddlers. (series)

Dog’s Noisy Day by Emma Dodd
Dog visits a farm and is introduced to all the different sounds the animals make. (series)

Down on the Farm by Merrily Kutner
Toddlers can bounce along with the rhymes in this joyful barnyard romp and can also join in the repeated refrain of “Down on the Farm.”

Ella Sarah Gets Dressed by Margaret Chodos-Irvine
Toddler Ella Sarah has her own ideas about what she wants to wear which are different from her family’s suggestions.

The Everything Book by Denise Fleming
A great gift book that introduces numbers, colors, the alphabet, body parts, classic rhymes, seasons and other concepts.

Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed by Eileen Christelow
A count-down book where the little monkeys jump on the bed, only to fall off and bump their heads. (series)

Freight Train by Donald Crews
Clear, bright illustrations show all the cars of a train moving through day and night, country and city.

Giant Pop-Out Shapes: A Pop-Out Surprise Book by Amelia Powers
An interactive book with impressive pop-outs allowing children to guess what is hiding behind the flaps, including a variety of shapes and familiar objects. (series)

A Good Day by Kevin Henkes
A bird, dog, fox and squirrel are all having a bad day until their luck turns around.

Hands Can by Cheryl Willis Hudson
Colorful photos depict all the ways toddlers can use their hands.

He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands by Kadir Nelson
An African-American boy with a multi-ethnic family is the star of this well-known spiritual.

Hooray for Fish! by Lucy Cousins
A rhyming text introduces toddlers to the similarities and differences of various types of fish.

How Do Dinosaurs Count to Ten? by Jane Yolen
Different types of dinosaurs help toddlers learn their numbers from one to ten. (series)

If You’re Happy and You Know It by Jane Cabrera
The popular children’s song with child-appealing illustrations presents various animals acting out the different motions (several other great titles by this author).

It’s Okay to Be Different by Todd Parr
Brightly colored child-like figures celebrate diversity and the acceptance of individualism (several other great titles by this author).

Little Quack’s New Friend by Lauren Thompson
Little Quack and his siblings, Widdle, Waddle, Piddle, and Puddle, meet a new friend, Little Ribbit, but only Little Quack is not afraid of the creature. (series)

Mama Cat Has Three Kittens by Denise Fleming
Fluffy and Skinny do what Mama does all day long, but third kitten Boris, does the opposite. Repetitious phrases will allow toddlers to join in (several other great titles by this author).

“More, More, More” Said the Baby by Vera Williams
Multigenerational, multiracial “love stories” about three different toddlers and their grown-ups.

Mouse Paint by Ellen Walsh
Three white mice discover jars of red, blue, and yellow paint and explore the world of color.

My Big Book of Spanish Words by Rebecca Emberley
A first dictionary of simple bilingual words introducing children to colors, numbers, animals and much more.

My Car by Byron Barton
The narrator introduces his car and its many useful features and he demonstrates how carefully he drives, stopping for pedestrians and reading signs (several other great titles by this author).

The Napping House by Audrey Wood
A rhythmic, repetitive text tells the story of a snoring granny, a dreaming child, a dozing dog, a snoozing cat, a slumbering mouse, and a disruptive, wakeful flea.

Peek-a-Zoo by Marie Torres Cimarusti
Kids play peek-a-boo with different animals found at the zoo, guessing what they are, then lifting the flap to find out. (series)

Puppies and Piggies by Cynthia Rylant
Various farm animals make this rhyming poem a perfect bedtime story.

Sheep in a Jeep by Nancy Shaw
A playful story reveals the misadventures of a group of sheep that go riding in a jeep. (series)

Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes by Mem Fox
An enjoyable poem with repeated stanzas celebrating babies around the world and the fact that each has “ten little fingers and ten little toes.”

Ten, Nine, Eight by Molly Bang
A little girl counts down to bedtime.

The Three Bears by Bryon Barton
A simplified version of the classic tale with vibrantly colored illustrations.

Time for Bed by Mem Fox
Darkness is falling everywhere and little ones are getting sleepy. It is time for a wide yawn, a big hug, and a snuggle under the covers – sleep tight!

Tip Tip Dig Dig by Emma Garcia
Colorful construction vehicles are busy working and making plenty of noise while creating a wonderful playground. Also, *Toot, Toot, Beep, Beep*.

Trucks by Bryon Barton
From tow trucks to cement trucks to newspaper delivery trucks in bright bold colors, this book will entrance youngsters. (series)

The Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle
As a spider starts spinning her web, other animals ask if she wants to play, but she does not answer as she is too busy. A perfect book for toddlers to imitate animal sounds and the book is touchable – you can feel the web!

Where’s Spot? by Eric Hill
In this book the viewer is able to open doors, lift bed curtains, and pry into the cabinets to help Sally search for her puppy. (series)

Who Hoots? by Katie Davis
This book becomes a guessing game of animal sounds with many silly, nonsense suggestions.

Whose Nose and Toes? by John Butler
With a guessing game format, toddlers are introduced to the noses and feet of different baby animals (several other great titles by this author).

Will Sheila Share? by Elivia Savadier
A toddler has a difficult time learning to share but Nana helps her understand that not sharing can be hurtful.

For more information, call Office of Commonwealth Libraries at 717.783.5738.

Illustration by Lindsay Barrett George

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It’s Never Too Early: Great Books to Share with Infants and Toddlers



Pennsylvania Libraries: Learning Starts Here

It's Never Too Early: Great Books to Share with Infants and Toddlers

Reading to Babies

- Read to your baby short periods of time, several times each day.
- Share cloth books or board books with rounded (not pointed) edges.
- Choose books with bright, colorful, uncluttered pictures.
- Hold the book so your baby can see the pictures (seven to eight inches from a newborn's face).
- Sing the songs and chant the nursery rhymes.
- Read with expression.
- Use reading time as a time to cuddle with your baby.

Compilations for Babies *(These make great baby presents.)*

Animal Crackers: A Delectable Collection of Pictures, Poems and Lullabies for the Very Young by Jane Dyer

Traditional poems and lullabies are mixed with contemporary and multicultural works.

Baby's Lap Book by Kay Choraó

Choraó offers a rhyme collection that will provide many happy hours for babies and those who love them.

Here Comes Mother Goose & My Very First Mother Goose by Iona Opie

Two classic collections of nursery rhymes with wonderful oversized illustrations by Rosemary Wells make great baby gifts.

Mary Engelbreit's Mother Goose: One Hundred Best-Loved Verses by Mary Engelbreit

A classic collection of over 100 beloved nursery rhymes illustrated by a popular artist.

Pio Peep!: Traditional Spanish Nursery Rhymes by Alma Flor Ada

Here is a lovely bilingual collection of traditional rhymes that honors childhood and Spanish and Latin America heritage.

This Little Piggy and Other Rhymes to Sing and Play by Jane Yolen

Over 60 lap rhymes, clapping rhymes, finger and foot rhymes, and songs are presented with simple instructions for parents to play with their babies. An accompanying CD includes 13 songs from the text.

Books for Babies

Baby! Baby! by Vicky Ceelen

A wonderful book to pore over, striking photographs catch the similarities between babies and animals.

Baby Cakes by Karma Wilson

A perfect book to act out at bedtime, this baby game starts with a kiss on the nose, a smooch on the toes, and a hug for good night.

Baby Danced the Polka by Karen Beaumont

An energetic baby jigs, polkas, and cha-chas in this rhyming story that will likely inspire imitation on the part of very young listeners.

Baby Faces by Margaret Miller

Babies love to look at other baby faces. These colorful photographs of various facial expressions of babies will delight youngsters. (series)

Baby Signs by Joy Allen

A book showing how babies can make essential signs to communicate their needs, wants, and feelings.

Baby Talk: A Book of First Words and Phrases by Judy Hindley

This lively rhyming tour of a young toddler's day from morning to night, with a visit to the park during the day, invites interaction.

Baby's Day: Easy-Open Board Book by Michael Blake

One of a series of board books depicting photos of familiar objects that small hands can easily open and turn pages.

Beep Beep by Petr Horacek

A family goes for a ride in their bright yellow car to Grandma's house, but the fun is with the wonderful sound words given. A companion book is *Choo Choo*.

Black and White by Tana Hoban

This accordion-style high contrast board book is perfect to set up in a crib for babies to look at the first few months of life.

Bounce and Jiggle by Sanja Rascek

One of four titles in the "Baby Gym" series, providing directions for parents to interact with their baby.

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

This classic picture book uses rhyming questions and repetitive phrases perfect for babies through preschoolers. Both a board book and picture book format are available.

Buenos Dias Baby! by Libby Ellis

Familiar objects are identified in both English and Spanish in this simply illustrated board book.

Colors by Justine Smith.

A first color book is just one in a series of books by this author for babies through age two. Others include *Shapes* and *Alphabet*.

Duckie's Splash by Francis Barry

A clever concept board book showing a duck meeting several other animals with a surprise pop-out ending that will delight the very young.

Everywhere Babies by Susan Meyers

A rhyming portrayal of multiracial babies participating in everyday activities with their families and friends.

Five Little Ducks by Justine Smith.

A foil-covered die-cut board book of the classic song with a surprise quacking at the end!

Fuzzy Fuzzy Fuzzy!: A Touch, Skritch & Tickle Book by Sandra Boynton

This simple board book provides a multisensory presentation of various farm animals.

Global Babies by Global Fund for Children

A board book displaying 17 baby faces from around the world, and also the clothing each baby wears.

Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown

A little rabbit bids goodnight to each familiar object in his moonlit room.

Hush Little Baby by Sylvia Long

A contemporary take on the classic lullaby, a mother soothes her child to sleep with the promise of such things as a quilt, a banjo tune, and the sights and sounds of nature.

Hush Little Baby by Brian Pinkney

This traditional lullaby, set in an African-American household in the early 1900s, shows a father and his guitar-playing son calming baby sister, who is sad Mama has left for the day.

I Love You Through and Through by Bernadette Rossetti-Shustak

Stiff pages and a padded cover make this a good choice for parents to share with babies, talking about all the ways they love their baby.

I'm a Little Teapot by Annie Kubler

One of several board book titles by this illustrator depicting a familiar song or rhyme.

Look at Baby's House by Peter Linenthal

A follow-up to *Look at Animals*, this predominantly black-and-white contrast book is perfect for new babies.

My Colors/Mis Colores by Rebecca Emberley

One in a series of Spanish/English books showing one object per page that helps with early language acquisition.

Peek-a-Baby: A Lift-the-Flap Book by Karen Katz

One of many titles by this popular author of books with flaps that provide wonderful peek-a-boo opportunities.

Peekaboo Bedtime by Rachel Isadora

An African-American toddler plays peek-a-boo before going to bed. A companion volume is *Peekaboo Morning*.

Peek-a-Moo! by Marie Torres Cimarusti

An oversized lift-a-flap peek-a-boo book with brightly colored animals and the sounds they make.

Peek-a-Who? A Lift-the-Flap Book by Moira Butterfield

Gatefold flaps children can lift to reveal who is hiding behind them - from a cat, a teddy bear, a puppy, a doll, and a boy.

Ten, Nine, Eight by Molly Bang

This picture book shows a loving father and his little "big" girl who turn bedtime into playtime with a rhyming game.

That's Not My Teddy...Its Paws Are Too Woolly by Fiona Watt

Brightly colored pages with touch-and-feel surfaces is just one of many great titles in this popular series.

Whose Toes Are Those? by Jabari Asam

A board book to help babies identify body parts, this book focuses on a girl, while the companion book *Whose Knees are These?* displays a boy character.

Yellow-Red-Blue: Baby Flip-a-Face by Sami

Young babies like to focus on other baby faces, and this book of simple smiling faces with fun die-cuts and soft foam-filled pages is a great choice. (series)

Reading to Toddlers

- Share board books until books with paper pages can be shared.
- Pick texts that contain sound, recurring words, rhythm, or rhyme.
- Talk about the story or pictures and encourage your child to participate by answering simple questions, making sounds or doing motions.
- Share nursery rhymes, songs and simple finger rhymes and repeat them. Toddlers also love to hear the same stories over and over again. The repetition helps improve children's vocabulary and memory.
- Help your child help turn the pages and select books to be read.
- Read simple, short books several times a day, due to limited attention span. Do not worry if your toddler does not want to sit still while you read.
- Pick books you like and share them enthusiastically! Use different voices and sounds.

Compilations for Toddlers

Diez dedos = 10 Little Fingers & Other Play Rhymes and Action Songs from Latin America by Jose-Luis Orozco

This is an inviting collection of lively finger rhymes and participatory songs from Latin America that will keep young children moving.

Good for You!: Toddler Rhymes for Toddler Times by Stephanie Calmenson

While they listen to the lively poems in this book about all the things they can do, toddlers can join in. They can play a game, parade with the alphabet, find their favorite colors, and much more.

Here's a Little Poem: A Very First Book of Poetry by Jane Yolen

More than 60 poems in four categories that will appeal to the very young: "Me, Myself, and I," "Who Lives in My House?," "I Go Outside," and "Time for Bed."

Playtime Rhymes for Little People by Clare Benton

Hand-sewn illustrations accompany traditional children's rhymes, games, and songs in a child-pleasing collection.

Read Aloud Rhymes for the Very Young by Jack Prelutsky

More than 200 short poems that cover a wide range of experiences in a young child's life, from everyday events, to special days, to the world of the imagination.