

Little Red Riding Hood by Jerry Pinkney
The traditional Grimm's folktale accompanied by an award-winner's illustrations.

Little White Duck by Walt Whippo
The classic silly song is staged as a play by a mouse narrator with a duck, a frog, a black bug, and red snake as characters.

Llama Llama Red Pajama by Anna Dewdney
A rhyming bedtime tale of a young llama who has trouble going to sleep when his mother leaves the room. (series)

Madeline by Ludwig Bemelmans
Madeline, smallest and naughtiest of the twelve little charges of Miss Clavel, wakes up one night with an attack of appendicitis. (series)

Make Way for Ducklings by Robert McCloskey
The classic tale of Mr. and Mrs. Mallard Duck raising their family of ducklings in Boston's Public Garden and the help they receive from a policeman.

Matthew A.B.C. by Peter Catalanotto
Mrs. Tuttle's kindergarten students are all named Matthew but she can tell them apart since the first letter of each boy's last name matches one of his attributes.

Max's ABC by Rosemary Wells
An alphabet story about bunny siblings that begins when Max's ants escape the ant farm. (series)

Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel by Virginia Lee Burton
Mike Mulligan and his steam shovel, Mary Ann, go to a little country town and dig their way to a surprising and happy ending.

The Mitten by Jan Brett
Several animals sleep snugly in Nicki's lost mitten until the bear sneezes.

Mother Goose Numbers on the Loose by Leo and Diane Dillon
Numbers are on the loose and can only be found in the twenty-four traditional counting rhymes presented.

Mouse Shapes by Ellen Stoll Walsh
When a cat chases three mice, they hide in a heap of colorful shapes which they use to make objects for their escape. (series)

My Truck Is Stuck by Kevin Lewis
A rhyming tale of two dogs who are hauling a load of bones in their dump truck and the truck gets stuck.

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.

Old Black Fly by Jim Aylesworth
An alphabet story book about all the chaos created by a pesky fly.

Old MacDonald Had a Farm by Jane Cabrera
Brightly colored child-appealing illustrations accompany this favorite children's song.

Old MacDonald Had a Woodshop by Lisa Shulman
Old MacDonald (here a female) is building a miniature toy farm for the baby animals.

Olivia Forms a Band by Ian Falconer
Olivia finds out that there is not a band for the evening fireworks, so she decided to create her own band. (series)

On Top of Spaghetti by Paul Brett Johnson
This popular song is given a new spin when a dog, who owns a restaurant, tries to develop a tastier meatball since his business is slow. Also by this author, *Little Bunny Foo Foo*.

Owl Moon by Jane Yolen
On a winter's night, under a full moon, a father and daughter trek into the woods to see the Great Horned Owl.

Patrick's Dinosaurs by Carol Carrick
When his older brother talks about dinosaurs during a visit to the zoo, Patrick is afraid, until he discovers they are extinct.

A Penguin Story by Antoinette Portis
Edna, a penguin, has only seen three colors – white, black and blue – and is excited when she discovers a camp of Antarctic scientists dressed in orange.

Planting a Rainbow by Lois Ehlert
A young child plans and then plants (seeds and bulbs) a flower garden that ends up growing flowers the colors of the rainbow.

Police Cloud by Christoph Neimann
A cloud wants to be a police officer but his best intentions show it is not the right career for him, however; being a firefighter is.

Read It, Don't Eat It by Ian Schoenherr
A great introduction on how to take care of library books.

Reading Makes You Feel Good by Todd Parr
Cartoon illustrations accompany all the reasons it is good to read books.

The Relatives Came by Cynthia Rylant
The relatives come to visit and everyone has a wonderful time.

The Seals on the Bus by Lenny Hort
Different animals including seals, tigers, geese, rabbits, monkeys, and more, make their own sounds as they ride all around the town on a bus.

So Much by Trish Cooke
As African-American relatives arrive in succession, they give in to their desire to hug, kiss, and play with the baby.

The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter
Peter disobeys his mother by going into Mr. McGregor's garden, and almost gets caught.

Ten Naughty Little Monkeys by Suzanne Williams
The old familiar rhyme about five monkeys now becomes ten in this version with a new twist.

Ten Things I Can Do to Help My World by Melanie Walsh
Ten great ideas to help young children protect our environment.

Three Billy Goats Gruff by Paul Galdone
This well-known Norwegian folktale with three hungry billy goats crossing a bridge where a troll lives is accompanied by large dramatic illustrations.

The Three Little Fish and the Big Bad Shark by Ken Geist
A twisted version of the *Three Little Pigs* story with three fish and a shark.

The Three Snow Bears by Jan Brett
A modern-day version of the Three Bears except, here they are polar bears in the Arctic.

Today Is Monday by Eric Carle
This song about hungry children and what they eat different days of the week can be sung or read.

Trashy Town by Andrea Zimmerman
Mr. Gilly is a trash collector and he needs to clean up the whole town, but when he is finished, he needs a bath! Kids can join in on the repetitive refrain.

Turtle Splash by Cathryn Falwell
A countdown rhyme with insects, mammals, and birds that share a pond habitat.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
The classic tale of a hungry caterpillar that eats different food every day of the week and finally turns into a beautiful butterfly.

We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen
Brave hunters go through grass, a river, mud and more on their way to the bear cave.

When Sophie Gets Angry – Really, Really Angry by Molly Bang
Sophie gets angry at her family and runs outside to her favorite beech tree where she calms down and then returns back to her family life.

Where's My Teddy? by Jez Alborough
A funny tale of a boy and a bear who have each lost their teddy bear.

Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak
A naughty little boy, sent to bed without his supper, sails to the land of the wild things where he becomes their king.

Who Ate All the Cookie Dough? by Karen Beaumont
Kanga wants to make cookies but someone has eaten all the cookie dough. A perfect match with the game "Who Stole the Cookies from the Cookie Jar?"

The Wide-Mouthed Frog: A Pop-Up Book by Keith Faulkner
A preschool favorite of an inquisitive frog who encounters other animals and wonders what they eat.

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

Illustration by Lindsay Barrett George

2009 Office of Commonwealth Libraries. Pennsylvania Department of Education. This publication was supported in whole by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Office of Commonwealth Libraries.

101 Great Picture Books for Preschoolers



Pennsylvania Libraries: Learning Starts Here

101 Great Picture Books for Preschoolers

All God's Critters by Bill Staines

The well-known children's folksong is accompanied by illustrations from award-winning illustrator Kadir Nelson.

Alphabet Under Construction by Denise Fleming

A mouse constructs an alphabet by various arts and crafts projects.

Apple Pie Fourth of July by Janet S. Wong

A first-generation Chinese-American girl thinks that no one will want Chinese food at her family's market on the fourth of July; but, finds out Americans like Chinese food to-go even on the holiday.

Aunt Flossie's Hats (and Crab Cakes Later) by Elizabeth F. Howard

Two little girls visit their aunt who has boxes and boxes of hats that spark family stories.

Bark, George by Jules Feiffer

What is a mother to do when her puppy, George, meows, moos, oinks, and quacks instead of barking?

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

While Baby Bear searches for Mama, several native North American animals appear along the way. (series)

Barnyard Banter by Denise Fleming

All the farm animals are where they should be, except for the missing goose.

Bear Snores On by Karma Wilson

As bear hibernates, he is unaware that other animals have taken refuge in his cave. (series)

Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina

Can a peddler outwit a band of monkeys who snatch his caps while he naps?

Cha-Cha Chimps by Julia Durango

A count-down rhyme where ten little chimps sneak out of the house to go dancing at Mama Jamba's.

Chato and the Party Animals by Gary Soto

Chato, the barrio cat, discovers that his best friend, Novio Boy, never had a birthday party so he decides to organize one.

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin Jr.

Alphabet with an attitude, as lower case letters climb a coconut tree that bends and breaks.

Chuck's Truck by Peggy Perry Anderson

A farmer drives to town in his well-used pickup truck with his farm animals. The rhyming text will soon have children joining in. Also, *Chuck's Band*.

Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type by Doreen Cronin

The cows in Farmer Brown's barn find a typewriter and start to make demands which lead to a strike, resolved by the impartial duck.

Corduroy by Don Freeman

The classic story of a little brown bear that is for sale in a large department store, and no one will buy him since he is missing a button on his shoulder strap.

Curious George by H. A. Rey

An inquisitive monkey wreaks havoc and makes life interesting for the man in the yellow hat. (series)

David Gets in Trouble by David Shannon

David gets into trouble in many ways as the day progresses, but when he finally admits his guilt, he finds out that his Mom still loves him. (series)

Dinotrax by Chris Gall

Millions of years ago, creatures that were part-truck and part-dinosaur ruled the world and were destructive; but now, only helpful trucks remain.

Dog and Bear by Laura Vaccaro Seeger

A dachshund and a stuffed bear share everyday adventures in these three short stories of friendship. (series)

The Doghouse by Jan Thomas

Mouse, Duck, Pig, and Cow are playing ball until it rolls into the doghouse. Who will be brave enough to retrieve it? (series)

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus by Mo Willems

As the bus driver leaves, a pigeon argues with the reader about why he should be able to drive a bus. (series)

Duck Soup by Jackie Urbanovic

Duck is a master chef at making soup. While he goes outside for a special herb, his friends arrive and think he fell into the soup. (series)

Fancy Nancy by Jane O'Connor

Nancy likes to be fancy and decides to rescue her family from their ho-hum wardrobe by giving them lessons in accessorizing. (series)

Feathers for Lunch by Lois Ehlert

No matter how hard he tries, the black and white cat cannot quite catch the birds that flutter above him.

First the Egg by Laura Vaccaro Seeger

The age old question of which is first – the chicken or the egg – along with other questions in nature, leads to the creation of a story book.

Five for a Little One by Chris Raschka

In rhyming verse, a blissful bunny introduces readers to the five senses.

Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed by Eileen Christelow

A classic children's rhyme is expanded into a humorous story with engaging illustrations. (series)

A Frog in the Bog by Karma Wilson

A clever counting book about a frog on a log, in the middle of the bog, that is eating some swamp delicacies until he sees an alligator.

Froggy Goes to School by Jonathan London

Froggy has "first day jitters" about going to school and even dreams that he shows up to school in his underwear. (series)

From Head to Toe by Eric Carle

The reader is encouraged to exercise by following the movements of various animals.

Gingerbread Man by Jim Aylesworth

The popular folktale is accompanied by old-fashioned illustrations and even includes a recipe.

Goldilocks and the Three Bears by Valeri Gorbachev

A short text of the familiar story with appealing illustrations makes this a great choice for preschoolers.

Good Night, Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann

A zookeeper is saying good night to all the animals; but, is unaware that the gorilla has stolen his keys and is unlocking the other animal cages.

Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown

A classic bedtime story guaranteed to soothe young listeners to sleep.

Gorgonzola: A Very Stinkysaurus by Margie Palatini

A dinosaur has serious hygiene problems and no one wants to be near him until a bird takes him "under his wing" and teaches him about hygiene.

Growing Vegetable Soup by Lois Ehlert

The entire process of growing plants from seeds is described, and then the vegetables are used to make soup (recipe included).

Guess How Much I Love You by Sam McBratney

Little Nutbrown Hare comes up with all the ways he loves Big Nutbrown Hare but each time his parent one-ups him.

Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson

Simple illustrations show how imagination can create new worlds and inspire incredible adventures.

Harry the Dirty Dog by Gene Zion

An adventurous dog, who does not like baths, finds that sometimes being scrubbed is much better than staying grubby. (series)

Horton Hears a Who by Dr. Seuss

Horton the elephant decides "A person's a person no matter how small."

How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight? by Jane Yolen

A joyful verse showing the funny, endearing, and naughty bedtime behavior of young dinosaurs. (series)

I Ain't Gonna Paint No More! By Karen Beaumont

After Mom tells him that he can't paint anymore, a young boy paints various parts of his body. Children can complete the rhymes and guess the body parts.

I Got Two Dogs by John Lithgow

The author sings a song about his two beloved dogs, Fanny and Blue. CD included.

I Stink by Katie and Jim McMullan

A big city garbage truck makes its rounds, consuming everything from apple cores to leftover ziti with zucchini.

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Joffe Numeroff

Relating the cycle of requests a mouse is likely to make after you give him a cookie, takes the reader through a young child's day. (series)

If You're Happy and You Know It (Jungle Edition) by James Warhola

Mom and her son and daughter arrive at the Big Jungle Playground where the animals come to life in this familiar song.

I'm the Biggest Thing in the Ocean by Kevin Sherry

A bright blue squid brags that he is the largest thing in the ocean, until he meets a whale.

Is Your Mama a Llama? By Deborah Guarino

A young llama asks his friends if their mamas are llamas and finds out, in rhyme, that their mothers are other types of animals.

It Looked Like Spilt Milk by Charles Green Shaw

White illustrations on blue pages with simple captions describe the shapes of clouds.

Jamberry by Bruce Degen

Nonsense rhymes to a musical beat require this story of a boy and bear to be read aloud.

Jump, Frog, Jump! By Robert Kalan

A frog tries to catch a fly, but finds himself at the other end of the food chain in this simple tale.

Kitten's First Full Moon by Kevin Henkes

Kitten mistakes the full moon for a bowl of milk, and ends up tired, wet, and hungry while trying to reach it.

Knuffle Bunny by Mo Willems

Toddler Trixie leaves her favorite stuffed bunny behind in the laundromat by mistake and when the family finally finds it, Trixie utters her first words. (series)

Lily's Purple Plastic Purse by Kevin Henkes

Lily loves her musical plastic purse and her teacher Mr. Slinger, until he takes away her purse because she is being disruptive. (series)

The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper

The well-known classic tale of a little train that is able to climb a high mountain due to positive thinking.

Little Oink by Amy Krouse Rosenthal

Little pig loves to be clean, but mama and papa say a proper pig needs to create a mess! (series)

Little Red Hen by Paul Galdone

The classic story of the little red hen that does all the work around the house without help from her housemates. The repetitive refrain is great for preschoolers to chime in.