



The Children's Museum of Orange County

Parents

Young Children's Recommended Books

Through over 30 years of working with young children and their families I have come to truly value how important good children's literature is, not only in developing a love for reading, but in establishing strong family traditions.

Favorite childhood books, when re-read to our own children, often seem like passing along precious childhood memories. Reading with children is essential for them to develop the interest in and love of reading. Good readers are most often good students and successful adults. Starting with picture books for young children, graduating into few then more words, steadily builds children's language skills and understanding of the world through books — and develops a life-long love of learning.

After many years of reading books to children, and observing their reactions and interest, I have some criteria that I use when choosing good children's literature:



- 1 Will the book be meaningful for the child? Does it deal with a subject that the child can relate to?
- 2 Does it help the child to make sense of their world — that is the "job" of children in early childhood.
- 3 Are the illustrations pleasing and compelling to a child?
- 4 Does the book use humor?
- 5 Will the book provoke questions and speculation from the child? Does it make them think more deeply about the contents?
- 6 Are there opportunities for discussion around the content? As an adult, can you help the child expand on the story in interesting ways?
- 7 Do you like it? If it is not in some way pleasing to you — you won't want to read it the ten million times that your child will request it to be read!

This is a partial list of good children's literature from years past and from current selections. There has never been a time in history when there has been such an abundance of good children's literature and your local public library is a great resource to use when deciding which books you want to invest in for your own home library.

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Director of Education
Pretend City
(Grandmother of Nine)



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CLASSICS:

<i>The Tale of Peter Rabbit</i>	Beatrix Potter	1902
<i>The Story of Ferdinand</i>	Munro Lea	1936
<i>Horton Hatches the Egg</i>	Dr. Seus	1940
<i>Make Way for Ducklings</i>	Robert McCloske	1941
<i>Curious George</i>	H. A. Re	1941
<i>The Little House</i>	Virginia Lee Burto	1943
<i>The Carrot Seed</i>	Ruth Krau	1945
<i>Goodnight Moon</i>	Margaret Wise Brow	1947
<i>Caps for Sale</i>	Esphyr Slobodkin	1947
<i>The Cat in the Hat</i>	Dr. Seus	1957
<i>The Snowy Day</i>	Ezra Jack Keat	1962
<i>Where the Wild Things Are</i>	Maurice Senda	1963
<i>Corduroy</i>	Don Freema	1968
<i>The Very Hungry Catapillar</i>	Eric Carl	1970
<i>The Snowman</i>	Raymond Brigg	1978

MORE CURRENT CHILDREN'S LITERATURE:

<i>Peekaboo Morning</i>	Rachel Isadora
<i>Knuffle Bunny</i>	Mo Willems
<i>I Have to Go</i>	Anna Ross & Norman Gorbaty
<i>Yellow Umbrella</i>	Jae Soo Liu
<i>A Cool Drink of Water</i>	Barbara Kerley
<i>Hello World</i>	Manta Stujie
<i>One Seed, One Child</i>	Kathryn Cave
<i>One Leaf Rides the Wind</i>	Celeste Davidson Mannis
<i>Where are You Going? To See my Friend</i>	Eric Carle & K. Iwamura
<i>If I Ran the Zoo</i>	Dr. Seuss
<i>Yertle the Turtle</i>	Dr. Seuss
<i>The Lorax</i>	Dr. Seuss
<i>Abuela's Weave</i>	Omar S. Sanchez
<i>Amazing Grace</i>	Mary Hoffman
<i>On the Day You Were Born</i>	Debra Frasier
<i>Mama, Do You Love Me?</i>	Barbara Jooisse
<i>Papa, Do You Love Me?</i>	Barbara Jooisse



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<i>Yo! Yes!</i>	Christopher Rashka
<i>Hush! A Thai Lullaby</i>	Holly Meade
<i>My Life with the Wave</i>	Catherine Cowan (based on a story by Octavio Paz)
<i>The Rainbabies</i>	Laura Kraus Melmed
<i>Little Oh</i>	Laura Kraus Melmed
<i>The Gardener</i>	Stewart
<i>There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly</i>	Simms Taback
<i>Arlene Alda's 1 2 3</i>	Alda
<i>Throw your Tooth on the Roof</i>	Beeler
<i>My Name is Yoon</i>	Recorvits & Gabi Sciatkowska
<i>10 Little Rubber Ducks</i>	Carle
<i>From Head to Toe</i>	Carle
<i>Eating the Alphabet</i>	Ehlert
<i>Is it Larger? Is it Smaller?</i>	Hoban
<i>More, Fewer, Less</i>	Hoban (she has a whole series of great photo books about concepts)
<i>We All Sing with the Same Voice</i>	Miller and Sheppard M. Greene
<i>City by Numbers</i>	T. Johnson
<i>Alphabet City</i>	T. Johnson
<i>1 2 3 to the Zoo</i>	Carle
<i>Swimm</i>	Leo Lionni
<i>Little Blue & Little Yellow</i>	Leo Lionni
<i>Frederic</i>	Leo Lionni
<i>Whoever You Are</i>	Mem Fox
<i>Mouse Pain</i>	Ellen Stoll Walsh
<i>Mouse Count</i>	Ellen Stoll Walsh
<i>The Turn-around Upside-down Alphabet Boo</i>	Lisa Campbell Ernst
<i>Teeth, Tails & Tentacles</i>	Christopher Wormell
<i>All the Colors We Are: The Story of How We Get Our Skin Color</i>	Katie Kissinger
<i>Two Worlds Together in Me</i>	Jamie Morgan dePina