

The 2005-2006
Building Readers

BOOK LIST



Recommended Books for Preschool Children

26 BIG Things Small Hands Do, by Coleen Paratore (Free Spirit). "Your hands are small, but they do BIG things that make this a wonderful world." From applauding and building to coloring and drawing, tiny hands accomplish all sorts of tasks. In fact, they can even help teach the youngest readers their ABCs!

10 Minutes Till Bedtime, by Peggy Rathmann (G.P. Putnam's Sons). What happens when one worn-out little boy needs to go to sleep, but hundreds of playful hamsters want to take the "10 minute bedtime tour"? Things get crazy, that's what—especially when everybody decides to take a bath!

What Shall We Do With the Boo-hoo Baby? by Cressida Cowell (Scholastic). The boo-hoo baby cries and cries. "What to do?" wonder the duck, the cow, the cat and the dog. Should they feed him? No, that doesn't work! Should they bathe him? Nope, no good. Hmm, maybe the little guy just needs a nap.

Actual Size, by Steve Jenkins (Houghton Mifflin). How do you measure up against other creatures? Find out here, where wild animals (or parts of them, at least) are depicted in actual size. Feel huge next to the dwarf goby, the world's tiniest fish. But next to the enormous saltwater crocodile? Feel very, very small.

Pepo and Lolo Are Friends, by Ana Martin Larrañaga (Candlewick). Pepo the pig and Lolo the chick are friends. So what if Pepo runs faster? Who cares if Lolo jumps higher? They're friends! And even when they

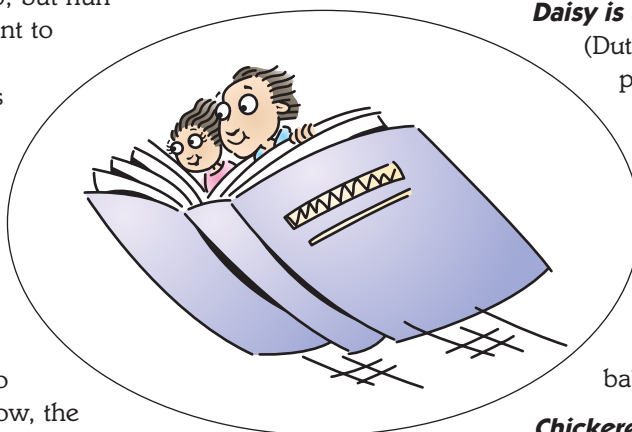
get mad at each other, they don't stay that way for long. A simple tale for the littlest readers.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, by Robert Sabuda (Little Simon). Watch out, or the March Hare, Mad Hatter and Queen of Hearts just might spring out of this stunning pop-up book and into your lap! With so many tabs to pull and pages to flip, this retelling of the classic tale is sure to delight young readers.

Daisy is a Mommy, by Lisa Kopper (Dutton Children's Books). The puppies have Daisy, their doggy mommy, and Baby has a human mommy. Daisy feeds her babies, and Baby's mommy feeds Baby. Daisy plays with her babies, and Baby's mommy plays with Baby. But does Daisy clean up her babies' messes? No!

Chickerella, by Mary Jane and Herm Auch (Holiday House). Chickerella thinks it would be eggcellent to check out the fancy gowns at the Fowl Ball, but her mean stepmother won't let her! Soon, though, Fairy Goosemother shows up and saves the day, and the glass-egg-laying Chickerella is off to the party!

Wild About Books, by Judy Sierra (Alfred A. Knopf). Librarian Molly McGrew drives her bookmobile straight to the zoo. "At first all the animals watched from a distance, but Molly could conquer the strongest resistance." Pretty soon, the bunnies, boas, bandicoots and bears are howling for a chance to read!



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Animal Crackers, by Jane Dyer (Little, Brown and Company). Filled with familiar ("Sing a Song of Sixpence," "Star Light, Star Bright") and not-so-familiar ("Cradle Song of the Elephants") rhymes, this lushly illustrated collection of verses is a great way to introduce youngsters to the world of poetry.

America the Beautiful, by Robert Sabuda (Little Simon). Beautiful, spacious skies, amber waves of grain, purple mountain majesties ... heck, the whole fruited plain come alive in this pop-up book like no other! White forms spring from the pages as lyrics from the classic song describe each scene.

Cool Melons—Turn to Frogs! by Matthew Gollub (Lee & Low Books). Lovely illustrations accompany the translated haikus of Issa, a famed Japanese poet from long ago. Child-friendly and captivating—"Crawl! Laugh! Just like that/You're two years old/this morning"—the short verses are deceptively powerful.

Drat That Fat Cat! by Pat Thomson (Scholastic). "Once there was a cat, a fat, fat cat. But was that cat fat enough? No, he was not!" So, what did he do? He ate a rat, a duck, a dog, even an old lady! But swallowing that bee wasn't such a good idea ...

Girl Wonder: A Baseball Story in Nine Innings, by Deborah Hopkinson (Atheneum). In 1907, Alta Weiss took the pitcher's mound for the Vermilion Independents, a semipro baseball team. But long before that, she was a scrappy farm kid who wasn't going to be held back just because she was a girl.

Home, by Jeannie Baker (Greenwillow Books). How does a run-down inner city become a vibrant neighborhood? How does one tiny back yard (and a tiny girl) change with that neighborhood? Find out in this series of charming collages—each one showing how little Tracy matures right along with her home.

Knuffle Bunny, by Mo Willems (Hyperion). Trixie is happy to walk with Daddy down the stairs, through the park and to the Laundromat. This is fun! But that's before she accidentally leaves her stuffed Knuffle Bunny in the washing machine! Trixie's too young to speak. How can she tell Daddy what happened?

I Spy Mystery: A Book of Picture Riddles, by Jean Marzollo (Scholastic). "I spy a coin, a carriage, a nest.

A spring, and the missing coins to the chest. Tea for two, a toaster with toast. Backward BOATS, and the dollhouse ghost." Think it's easy to find the hidden items in these jumbled-up pictures? Think again!

Lizards, Frogs, and Polliwogs, by Douglas Florian (Harcourt). "The crocodile's smile is wide/Enough to stuff a pig inside/But did you know that alligators/Sometimes swallow second graders?" This ode to scary snappers is just one of the clever, lizard-centric verses in this engaging, marvelously illustrated collection.

I Already Know I Love You, by Billy Crystal (HarperCollins). "I'm going to be your grandpa! I have the biggest smile. I've been waiting to meet you for such a long, long while!" With that, a soon-to-be-grandfather revels in all the things he plans to do with his grandchild when he (or she) finally arrives.

Tiny's Big Adventure, by Martin Waddell (Candlewick). Tiny the mouse and his sister, Katy, are off to explore the wheat field. It's fun when Katy points out all the neat things: the pheasant, the snail, the boot. But what happens when Tiny gets separated from Katy? Suddenly, those "neat" things are scary!

Little Bunny Foo Foo, by Paul Brett Johnson (Scholastic). Well, Little Bunny Foo Foo can't say he wasn't warned. The Good Fairy told him to stop bopping those field mice on the head. But did the naughty rabbit listen? No! In fact, in this retelling of the familiar song, the cotton-tailed troublemaker even goes after grizzly bears!

Jamaica's Find, by Juanita Havill (Houghton Mifflin). The stuffed gray doggy doesn't belong to Jamaica, but the little girl takes him home anyway. After all, he was just lying on the ground at the park. What if he does not belong to anyone? Still, Mama has a point: What if he does?

The Hidden Alphabet, by Laura Vaccaro Seeger (Roaring Brook Press). When is a fish not just a fish? When you raise the flap to discover that the blue-green guppy is part of the letter F. And what can an inkblot be besides just a splat? It's the letter I—if you lift up the page. A colorful, creative take on the ABCs.

