

Welcome CTA's Kindergarten Readers!

Anytime is a great time for reading, and there are lots of wonderful books for kids today. Reading with and to young children introduces and reinforces early concepts about print and provides practice of important skills that support thinking and learning. It develops confidence and independence that ultimately lead to success. And, reading is fun!

Here are some thoughts to encourage your readers:

- Try to visit the library! Encourage your children to read for pleasure.
- Choose together. Children may have favorite authors, characters, and interests. It's okay to reread old favorites and try new ones.
- As children begin to read on their own it is important to choose books that are "just right", not too easy or too hard. Reading is a meaning making process so if your child can't read and understand most of what is on the page, save it for the later or read it together.
- Reading aloud to your child is a great opportunity for conversation and cuddling. It builds background knowledge, encourages vocabulary development, and fosters critical thinking.

Most importantly, have a great summer and make reading part of the fun!

Cheryl Miller, CTA Library 2021

Picture Books for Reading Aloud and Together

Ada Twist, Scientist by Andrea Beaty 2016 Ada Twist has always been curious and uses science to find answers. This book shows girls that science is for them! From the author: ***Iggy Peck, Architect***

Are You My Mother? by P.D. Eastman First printing 1960 When a baby bird hatches, he asks everyone he meets, "Are you my mother?"

The Adventures of Beekle: An Unimaginary Friend by Dan Santat 2015 Caldecott Medal Beekle, an imaginary friend, tired of waiting to be found, searches for his person.

Be Kind by Pat Zietlow Miller 2018 This story shows how acts of kindness, big and small, can make a huge difference in someone's life!

The Book Hog by Greg Pizzoli 2020 Geisel Award Honor The Book Hog *loves* books---the way they look, the way they feel, the way they smell--and he'll grab any he can find. But there's a problem. He can't read! How can he solve the problem?

More from Greg Pizzoli: ***Good Night Owl*** 2017 Geisel Honor Owl can't go to sleep until he figures out what's making that strange noise. Also, 2014 Geisel Medal, ***The Watermelon Seed***, too.

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin Jr. This classic uses rhyming text and repetition to reinforce early concepts about print. Kids love to "read" along with this one!

Don't Throw It to Mo! by David Adler 2016 Geisel Medal Mo Jackson may be the smallest kid on his team, but the Coach's plan helps him save the day.

Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes 2008 Chrysanthemum loved her name, then she went to school.

Click, Clack, Surprise! By Doreen Cronin 2016 It's Little Duck's first birthday. How will he know how to celebrate?

Creepy Pair of Underwear by Aaron Reynolds 2015 Jasper isn't a little bunny anymore. He's not afraid of the dark, and he's not afraid of underwear! But when the lights go out, his big rabbit underwear glows in the dark. That's creepy!

The Gingerbread Man by Karen Schmidt. 1985 The gingerbread man runs as fast as he can, until he meets the fox!

Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae 2001 Gerald wants to dance but he has four left feet. The other animals make fun of him. Perhaps he just needs to dance to his own music.

Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown In this classic, first written in 1947, a little bunny says "good night" to all the familiar things in his room.

Hi! Fly Guy by Tedd Arnold 2005 Buzz wants a pet to take to The Amazing Pet Show. He finds a fly smart enough to say his name! Kids love this duo. Look for the "nonfiction" Fly Guy stories, too. Series

I Like Myself by Karen Beaumont 2004 No matter where she goes or what she does this little girl likes herself because as she says, "I'm ME"!

Ice Cream: The Real Scoop by Gail Gibbons 2008 Ice cream is everyone's favorite treat. Learn its history and how this favorite food gets from cow to you. Great nonfiction author

I Want My Hat Back by Jon Klassen 2011 Caldecott Honor Bear's hat is gone, and he wants it back. Every animal he meets has not seen his hat, but when he thinks he'll never find it, a deer comes by and guess what?! Also read, ***This is Not My Hat*** 2013 Caldecott Medal

Journey by Aaron Becker 2014 Caldecott Honor With nothing to do and no one to play with, a little girl draws a door, enters, and begins an adventure. Reminiscent of ***Harold and the Purple Crayon***.

Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale by Mo Willems 2004 Trixie, Dad and Knuffle Bunny take a trip to the Laundromat. Everything's great until bunny is left behind.

Little Red Hen by Paul Galdone 1985 Well-loved cautionary folktale about how we reap what we sow!

Llama Llama Time to Share by Anne Dewey 2011 When Llama Llama's new neighbor comes to play, he's okay with some sharing but when is enough, enough! Read all the Llama Llama books.

Madeline by Ludwig Bemelmans 1958 First in the classic series in which poor Miss Clavel lives in a house in Paris all covered with vines and cares for 12 little girls, the littlest of which is Madeline!

The Most Magnificent Thing by Ashley Spires 2014 A little girl is going to make the most MAGNIFICENT thing! She knows how it will look. She has a plan, but making it is harder than she thought. Will she succeed?

The Napping House by Audrey and Don Wood 1984 Meet a snoring granny, a dozing dog, a dreaming child, a snoozing cat, and others in this cumulative tale where everyone is sleeping!

Officer Buckle and Gloria by Peggy Rathmann 1996 Caldecott Medal Officer Buckle teaches safety to school children, but it's his dog, Gloria who really gets their attention.

Oh, No! by Candace Fleming 2012 Children will shout "Oh, No!" as one by one the animals fall into a deep hole and are unexpectedly saved.

Old Bear by Kevin Henkes 2008 Old Bear goes to sleep for the winter. As he sleeps, he dreams that he's a cub again and revisits the sights, colors, and sounds of the four seasons.

Olivia by Ian Falconer 2000 Olivia is one precocious pig! She's good at lots of things. Children will see themselves in this pig who "even wears herself out"!

One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish by Dr. Seuss 1960 Don't forget about this much-loved author! Kids love, his rhymes, silliness, and illustrations! Enjoy **Cat in the Hat**, and others, too!

Owen by Kevin Henkes 1994 Caldecott Honor "Fuzzy goes where I go!" says Owen but his parents disagree. After all, Owen's starting school soon, and that's no place for a "blankie".

Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons by James Dean and Eric Litwin 2013 Geisel Award Pete is wearing his favorite shirt, the one with the four totally groovy buttons. But when a button falls off, does he worry? Goodness, no! He just keeps on singing his song! Download the story and song.

Please, Mr. Panda by Steve Anthony 2014 Mr. Panda will share his doughnuts with the other animals if they say "please" and "thank you". Read all the Mr. Panda books!

The Pout, Pout Fish by Deborah Diesen 2013 This fish is so grumpy it makes everyone feel gloomy but one day things change. Rhyming text and colorful pictures. Series.

Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister 1999 In this cautionary tale Rainbow Fish thinks he's the most beautiful fish in the ocean. He refuses to share his shiny scales, which sparkle on the pages.

Red-eyed Tree Frog by Joy Cowley 2006 Simple text and beautiful photographs follow a rain forest frog as it looks for food and escapes predators. Good non-fiction for young readers.

Shabbat Hiccups by Tracy Newman 2016 Jonah loves Shabbat. But as he helps set the table for dinner, something unexpected happens, he gets the hiccups! Suggested cures just don't seem to work!

The Shabbat Princess by Amy Meltzer 2011 Rosie wants to welcome the Sabbath Queen in a special way, so she dresses up as a Shabbat Princess and goes about royally setting the table.

A Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats 1963 Caldecott Award Share the adventures of a little boy in the city on a very snowy day. It may be summer but cool off with NYC library's most checked out book!

Thelma, the Unicorn by Aaron Blabey 2017 Thelma, a pony, yearns to be a unicorn. When she miraculously becomes one, is she really happy?

The Three Bears by Paul Galdone 1985 A wonderful retelling of the classic fairy tale.

The Three Little Pigs by James Marshall 2000 Charming retelling of the much-loved folk tale.

To Market, To Market by Anne Miranda 1997 A woman goes to the market "to buy a fat pig" but is not happy with just the pig so she goes back again and again and again!

Tomie dePaola's Mother Goose 1986 Traditional rhymes introduce young children to the sounds of language in this beautifully illustrated book.

Truman by Jean Reidy 2019 Truman the tortoise lives with his Sarah, high above the traffic until one day Sarah does something Truman has never seen before. She boards the bus! Truman waits and waits for her until he can't wait any longer!

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle Loved since 1969! Join the hungry caterpillar as he eats one apple on Monday, two pears on Tuesday, and so on through the week until he's big enough to change into a butterfly.

The Very Impatient Caterpillar by Ross Burach 2019 Hilarious story about metamorphosis that extols the virtue of being patient.

Waiting by Kevin Henkes 2016 Caldecott & Geisel Honor books Waiting is something even a child experiences. In this story "an owl, puppy, bear, rabbit and pig" wait for something special to happen.

Waiting is Not Easy by Mo Willems 2015 Geisel Honor Book Piggie has a big surprise, but does Gerald have the patience to wait? Also read 2014 Geisel Honor ***A Big Guy Took My Ball*** and all the books about Gerald and Piggy! Kids love them, and they love Mo Willems, too!

Walk Tall, Molly Lou Melon by Patty Lovell 2001 Molly Lou Melon is short, has buck teeth and a voice like a bullfrog. That's okay. Her grandmother always said to walk proud, smile big, and sing loud, and she takes that advice to heart.

We Are Growing by Laurie Keller 2017 Geisel Award Walt and his friends are growing fast and everyone, but Walt, is the "something-est" until he discovers something special of his own.

We Are (Not) Friends by Anna Kang 2019. Two fuzzy friends have a decision to make when someone else wants to join the fun.

You Are Not Small! by Anna Kang 2015 Geisel Award Two fuzzy creatures argue about who is big and who is small, until surprise guests show up. Also read 2017 ***I Am (Not) Scared***

We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen 1989 Brave bear hunters go through grass, a river, mud, and other obstacles before they meet the bear and have to flee!

When Sophie Gets Angry – Really, Really Angry by Molly Bang 1999 Sophie's mad when her sister wants to play with her toy. Read how she feels as she yells, stomps, and runs off to calm down.

Concept Books

Alphabet Adventure by Audrey Wood 2001 On the first day of school lower case letters are on their way to help the children learn the alphabet but their journey is interrupted when "i" can't find her dot.

Chicka, Chicka, Boom, Boom by Bill Martin & John Archambault 1999 Guess what happens when the whole alphabet tries to climb a coconut tree! Also enjoy ***Chicka, Chicka 1, 2, 3***

Eating the Alphabet by Lois Ehlert 1994 An alphabet of fruits and vegetables, from apricot to zucchini. By the author of ***Color Zoo; Planting a Rainbow; Growing Vegetable Soup***.

I Went Walking by Sue Williams 1996 Children will "read along" in this repetitive text about a boy who meets a brown horse, a red cow, and others.

In a Small, Small Pond by Denise Fleming 1994 Caldecott Honor In this follow-up to ***In the Tall, Tall Grass***, explore life in a freshwater pond, from tadpole to frog.

LMNO Peas by Keith Baker 2010 Each letter is introduced by a group of peas and accompanied by activities, jobs, and hobbies it begins with, all in rhyming text.

My Five Senses by Alikei 1989 Explore the world through taste, touch, sight, hearing and smell.

One Duck Stuck by Phyllis Root 2003 Count along as animals try to help a duck stuck in the muck. Rhythm and rhyme engage the reader.

Seven Blind Mice by Ed Young 1993 Caldecott Honor In this retelling of a fable from India, seven brightly colored blind mice see something strange. They describe its shape and size, each in their own way and on a different day of the week.

Z is for Moose by Kelly L. Bingham 2012 What happens when Zebra forgets to include Moose in his alphabet book?

School Stories

Amelia Bedelia's First Day of School by Herman Parish 2009 Amelia's first day of school is filled with hilarious and confusing misadventures.

David Goes to School by David Shannon 1999 David needs to learn a thing or two about appropriate school behavior!

How Do Dinosaurs Go to School? by Jane Yolen & Mark Teague 2007 In rhyme and rhythm this story centers around lively and loveable dinosaurs as it asks and answers questions about going to school.

The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn 1993 Chester is nervous about starting school, but his mother shows him a special way to take her love with him. In ***Pocket Full of Kisses***, Mrs. Raccoon helps Chester adjust to his new baby brother.

Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten by Joseph Slate 2003 Miss Bindergarten is preparing to welcome her 26 new kindergarteners, and they're getting ready for school, too. Children will love the rhyming text and alphabetical order.

The Night Before Kindergarten by Natasha Wing 2001 Through rhythm and rhyme children, and parents, will relate as the characters gather supplies, pick outfits and are a little scared and a lot excited for kindergarten.

The Pigeon Has to Go to School by Mo Willems 2019 Why does the Pigeon have to go to school? He already knows everything! And maybe he won't like it! What if the teacher doesn't like him? What if he learns too much!? Read all the Pigeon books from this favorite author.

Pete the Cat: Rockin' in My School Shoes by James Dean & Eric Litwin 2011 Pete the Cat has four bright red high-top shoes, a backpack, a lunch box, and a red guitar. It's his first day of school but "Does Pete worry? Goodness, no!" Kids will sing along with Pete, and you can download the song. Series.

Welcome to Kindergarten by Anne Rockwell 2001 A little boy visits the kindergarten he'll attend. Go with him to the Science, Art, Reading and Math Centers as he explores the promise of what's to come.

Wemberly Worried by Kevin Henkes 2000 Wemberly worries about big things and small, but her biggest worry is that the first day in a new school is coming. A new friend helps!

Chapter books for Reading Aloud – Some young children enjoy a story read over time like:

Ramona the Pest by Beverly Cleary

The Mouse and the Motorcycle by Beverly Cleary

Charlotte's Web by E. B. White

Mercy Watson to the Rescue by Kate DiCamillo

Amelia Bedelia by Peggy Parish

Magic Tree House series by Mary Pope Osborne