

Six Skills for Early Literacy

Each book on this list will help teach one or more of the Six Skills for Early Literacy. Look for the corresponding colored dots following each title listed to see which skills are emphasized in that book.

Print motivation

Being excited about and interested in books

- Share books that excite children's interests
- Re-read favorite books and rhymes
- Have fun and enjoy books together

Phonological awareness

Playing with the sounds in words

- Sing songs
- Play word games: clap syllables, substitute sounds, drop letters (i.e. train becomes rain)
- Share rhymes

Enriched vocabulary

Knowing the specific names of things.

- Be descriptive when naming things: big red boat, furry black puppy
- Expose children to new words
- Discuss concepts: time, seasons, opposites, etc.

Narrative skills

Telling stories and describing things

- Engage in conversations: model good listening skills
- Allow children to tell their own stories
- Encourage pretend play

Print awareness

Noticing print everywhere, knowing how to handle a book, and following words on a page

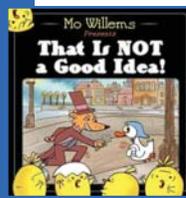
- Help children discover letters and words on signs, menus, labels, etc.
- Allow children to hold books and turn pages
- Follow the words on a page: demonstrate left to right/top to bottom

Letter knowledge

Knowing the differences between how letters look, their names, and their sounds

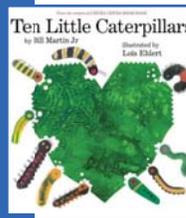
- Help identify the first letter of their name
- Introduce the letters of the alphabet
- Make children aware that letters have different sounds

Read Aloud to Preschoolers



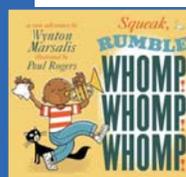
That is Not a Good Idea! by Mo Willems. PIC WILLEMS. ●●●●●

A hungry fox tries to woo a fetching goose to dinner, but will she take the bait? Adults will enjoy the clever premise, children will enjoy the catchy refrains, and all will enjoy a laugh.



Ten Little Caterpillars by Bill Martin Jr.; illustrated by Lois Ehlert. PIC MARTIN. ●●●●●

Combining counting and metamorphosis, the rhyming text, bright artwork, and informational facts create a wholly satisfying read.



Squeak, Rumble, Whomp! Whomp! by Wynton Marsalis; illustrated by Paul Rogers. PIC MARSALI. ●●●●●

A young boy, with his trumpet in tow, delights at the sounds that fill his neighborhood.



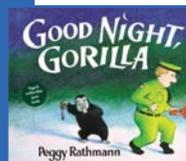
Little Blue Truck by Alice Schertle; illustrated by Jill McElmurry. PIC SCHERTL. ●●●●●

"Beep! Beep! Beep! I'm stuck! I'm stuck!" cries the Little Blue Truck. Will Blue's barnyard friends hear his calls for help? Fun, rhyming text will have children joyfully mooing, baaing, and beeping along.



The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry, and the Big Hungry Bear by Don and Audrey Wood. PIC WOOD. ●●●●●

Yum! Everyone loves a red, ripe strawberry, especially the big hungry bear! Follow mouse as he hides, disguises, and even locks up his berry to keep it safe.



Good Night, Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann. PIC RATHMAN. ●●●●●

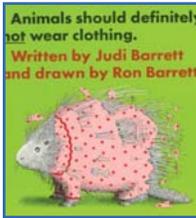
A mischievous gorilla has swiped the Zoo-keeper's keys. Now all the animals in the zoo are trying to sleep in the house instead of their beds.



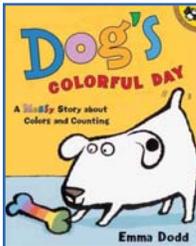
Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star by Jane Cabrera. PIC CABRERA. ●●●
Sing this story out loud! This nursery rhyme is expanded with bright, colorful, bold illustrations of baby animals from around the world.



Now I'm Big! by Karen Katz. PIC KATZ. ●●●●
Preschoolers will love this story that contrasts the "big" child's experiences from now and when he was "little."



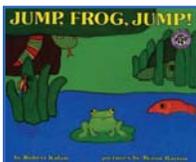
Animals Should Definitely Not Wear Clothing by Judi Barrett; illustrated by Ron Barrett. PIC BARRETT. ●●●●
This classic shows why animals are better off with the "clothing" nature gave them. The hilarious illustrations and text beg to be read over and over again.



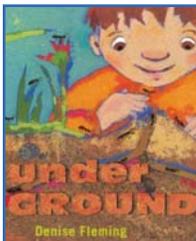
Dog's Colorful Day: A Messy Story About Colors and Counting by Emma Dodd. CLR DODD. ●●●●●
Lovable, white Dog has one black spot on his ear. Throughout his busy day, nine more spots of all colors and sizes get dropped and spilled on him until he has ten and his owner decides it is time for a bath.



Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site by Sherri Duskey Rinker; illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld. PIC RINKER. ●●●●●
The mighty trucks enjoy working all day at the construction site. When the day is done they are ready to sleep and dream.



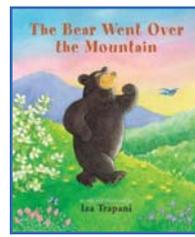
Jump, Frog, Jump! by Robert Kalan; pictures by Byron Barton. PIC KALAN. ●●●●
Tiny little frog learns how to get away, "Jump, frog, jump!" from almost every animal except one. Will he jump away in the end?



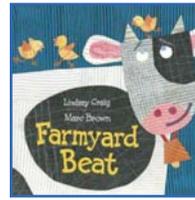
Underground by Denise Fleming. PIC FLEMING. ●●●●
Step into a backyard in this charming picture book by Fleming that explores the creatures that dig tunnels, burrow, and more!



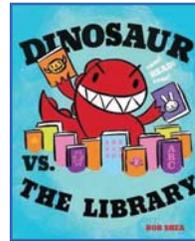
Is Everyone Ready for Fun? by Jan Thomas. PIC THOMAS. ●●●●
A chicken goes berserk when three cows begin wreaking havoc in her house. Children can jump, dance, and wiggle along with this hilarious tale.



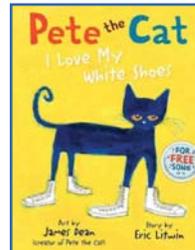
The Bear Went Over the Mountain as told and illustrated by Iza Trapani. PIC TRAPANI. ●●●
Trapani takes a traditional song and adds her own unique style creating an exploration of the seasons as well as the five senses.



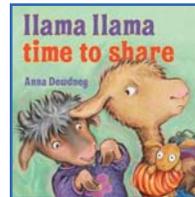
Farmyard Beat by Lindsey Craig; illustrated by Marc Tolon Brown. PIC CRAIG. ●●●
Lively and silly-looking farmyard animals have the beat and will make readers want to move to the beat too!



Dinosaur vs. the Library by Bob Shea. PIC SHEA. ●●●
Rambunctious Dinosaur loves to be noisy and roar with his friends, but will he be able to keep it in during library story time?



Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes by Eric Litwin (aka Mr. Eric); art by James Dean. PIC LITWIN. ●●●
Pete loves his new white shoes, but as he goes about his day the color of his shoes change and therefore so do the words to his song.



Llama Llama Time to Share by Anna Dewdney. PIC DEWDNEY. ●●●
Llama Llama has play time with his new neighbor, Nelly Gnu, but Llama Llama must learn to share his toys with his new friend.

Looking for more?

Try books by these other great authors:

- Eric Carle
- Lucy Cousins
- Kevin Henkes
- Ezra Jack Keats
- Jan Thomas
- Karma Wilson

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