

## **Best Books for Pre-K and Kindergarten** <sup>[1]</sup>



Children in kindergarten and those getting ready for their first school

experience will appreciate these stories about the world at large. Whether learning about animals or with animals as a lovable backdrop to real world lessons, these titles are sure to please little book lovers.

### **Hit the Ball Duck** <sup>[2]</sup>by Jez Alborough

Duck and friends go out one day with a bat, a ball and a glove to play!

### **1?2?3 Peas!** <sup>[3]</sup> by Keith Baker

Busy little peas engage in their favorite activities as they introduce the numbers from one to 100.

### **No Two Alike** <sup>[4]</sup>by Keith Baker

Follows a pair of birds on a snowflake-filled journey through a winter landscape, where everything everywhere, from branches and leaves to forests full of trees, is unique.

### **Itty Bitty** <sup>[5]</sup>by Cece Bell

Itty Bitty may be a very, very tiny dog, but he finds a way to make a home in the big, big world.

### **How Do You Feel?** <sup>[6]</sup>by Anthony Browne

A young chimp describes a variety of emotions he experiences.

### **Hurry! Hurry!** <sup>[7]</sup>by Eve Bunting

All the animals of the barnyard community hurry to greet their newest member, who is just pecking his way out of an egg.

### **Little Bear?s Little Boat** <sup>[8]</sup>by Eve Bunting

When Little Bear can no longer fit into his boat he finds someone else who can use it.

### **10 Little Rubber Ducks** <sup>[9]</sup>by Eric Carle

When a storm strikes a cargo ship, ten rubber ducks are tossed overboard and swept off in ten different directions.

### **Get Up and Go!** <sup>[10]</sup>by Nancy Carlson

Text and illustrations encourage readers, regardless of shape or size, to turn off the television and play games, walk, dance, and engage in sports and other forms of exercise

### **Five Little Monkeys Reading in Bed** <sup>[11]</sup>by Eileen Christelow

Mama has said it is time for "Lights out! Sweet dreams! No more reading in bed,? but her five little monkeys cannot resist treading just a few more books to one another.

**Llama, Llama Time to Share** <sup>[12]</sup>by Anna Dewdney

"Llama Llama doesn't want to share his toys with his new neighbors. But when fighting leads to broken toys and tears, Llama learns that it's better to share"

**Rrralph** <sup>[13]</sup>by Lois Ehlert

The narrator describes discovering how Ralph the dog can talk, appropriately saying words such as "roof," "rough," "bark," and "wolf."

**If You?re a Monster and You Know It** <sup>[14]</sup>by Ed & Rebecca Emberley

Monsters sing their own version of this popular song that encourages everyone to express their happiness through voice and movement.

**Muncha! Muncha! Muncha!** <sup>[15]</sup>by Candace Fleming

After planting the garden he has dreamed of for years, Mr. McGreely tries to find a way to keep some persistent bunnies from eating all his vegetables.

**And Then It?s Spring** <sup>[16]</sup>by Julie Fogliano

Simple text reveals the anticipation of a boy who, having planted seeds while everything around is brown, fears that something has gone wrong until, at last, the world turns green.

**Don?t Worry Bear** <sup>[17]</sup>by Greg Foley

A caterpillar reassures a worried bear that they will see each other again when the caterpillar emerges from its cocoon.

**Two Little Monkeys** <sup>[18]</sup>by Mem Fox

A rhyming tale about two little monkeys who are hiding from a leopard.

**Yucky Worms** <sup>[19]</sup>by Vivian French

While helping Grandma in the garden, a child learns about the important role of the earthworm in helping plants grow.

**Blue Chameleon** <sup>[20]</sup>by Emily Gravett

The chameleon is feeling blue because he?s lonely, so he goes and visits a yellow banana, pink cockatoo, swirly snail, brown boot, and so on. Each time, not only does he change his color to match the object or animal, but he also contorts himself into a shape that matches them.

**Orange Pear Apple Bear** <sup>[21]</sup>by Emily Gravett,

Explores concepts of color, shape, and food using only five simple words, as a bear juggles and plays.

**Little White Rabbit** <sup>[22]</sup>by Kevin Henkes

As he hops along a little rabbit wonders what it would be like to be green as grass, tall as fir trees, hard as rocks, and flutter like butterflies.

**Old Robert and the Sea-Silly Cats** <sup>[23]</sup>by Barbara Joose

Sailor Old Robert lives a solitary existence until some performing cats come into his life.

**This Is Not My Hat** <sup>[24]</sup>by Jon Klassen

A tiny minnow wearing a pale blue bowler hat has a thing or two up his fins in this underwater light-on-dark chase scene.

**Hurty Feelings** <sup>[25]</sup>by Helen Lester

It looks like trouble when Fragility, a hippopotamus whose feelings are easily hurt, meets Rudy, a rude elephant, on the soccer field.

**Bats at the Ballgame** <sup>[26]</sup>by Brian Lies

Two teams of bats play an exciting nighttime baseball game.

**Sleep Like a Tiger** <sup>[27]</sup>by Mary Logue

At bedtime a young girl asks "Does everything in the world go to sleep?"

**Up, Tall and High** <sup>[28]</sup>by Ethan Long

Through illustrations and simple text, birds demonstrate the meanings of the words up, tall and high.

**Otis and the Puppy** <sup>[29]</sup>by Loren Long

When a puppy gets lost while playing hide and seek on the farm, Otis the friendly little tractor must face his fear of the darkness in order to help his new friend.

**Hattie Hippo** <sup>[30]</sup>by Christine Loomis

"Meet Hattie, an adorable little hippo who loves to dance, swim, play hide-and-seek, and host tea parties for her friends!"

**Bulldog's Big Day** <sup>[31]</sup>by Kate McMullan

While looking for a job, Bulldog tries being a firefighter, a window washer, a sign painter, and a bookseller before finding just the right job for himself.

**I'm Fast!** <sup>[32]</sup><sup>[33]</sup>by Kate McMullan

Two trains race each other on the way to Chicago.

**Pig Pig Meets the Lion** <sup>[34]</sup>by David McPhail

A friendly lion escapes from the local zoo and Pig Pig wants to keep him.

**Waddles** <sup>[35]</sup>by David McPhail

Waddles, a very plump and furry raccoon, helps his best friend Emily, a duck, hatch and raise her ducklings, and discovers what makes him truly happy.

**The Sleep Sheep** <sup>[36]</sup>by Anna McQuinn

When Sylvie cannot fall asleep and her mother suggests that she try counting sheep, the sheep do not cooperate.

**Kitty Cat, Kitty Cat Are You Going to Sleep** <sup>[37]</sup>by Bill Martin

A young cat is distracted by many things while getting ready for bed at night.

**Bug Patrol** <sup>[38]</sup>by Denise Mortensen

Captain Bob of the Bug Patrol keeps a watchful eye on bugs everywhere.

**What Puppies Do Best** <sup>[39]</sup>by Laura Numeroff

Describes the many activities puppies enjoy, from wake-up kisses to goodnight kisses, before

identifying what they do best.

**Jellybeans & the Big Art Adventure** <sup>[40]</sup>by Laura Numeroff

The Jelly Beans--four friends who like to do such different things as paint, play soccer, read, and dance--paint a mural on an outside wall of Mrs. Petunia Dinkley-Sneezer's candy shop that depicts them each doing what they love best.

**Stuff** <sup>[41]</sup>by Margie Palatini

Edward cares more about his possessions than spending time with his friends, until he becomes trapped in his house full of ?stuff,? hungry and bored.

**Perfect Pet** <sup>[42]</sup>by Margie Palatini

After Elizabeth's parents do not agree with her various suggestions for the perfect pet, she discovers a solution.

**Tiny Little Fly** <sup>[43]</sup>by Michael Rosen

With a tramp and a roll and a swat, Great Big Elephant, Great Big Hippo, and Great Big Tiger try to capture Tiny Little Fly as he teases each one in turn.

**All Around the Seasons** <sup>[44]</sup>by Barney Saltzberg

Illustrations and rhymes celebrate what makes each season special, from baby chicks in the spring through a snowman in the winter.

**Uh-Oh, Dodo!** <sup>[45]</sup> by Jennifer Sattler

Meet Dodo! He loves an adventure. He is always willing to try new things. He enjoys making new friends. But not everything turns out the way Dodo expects. Even a walk with his Mama turns into a topsy-turvy day of discoveries, challenges, and surprises. Good thing Dodo has a sense of humor! He's one curious, fun-loving, original bird.

**A Big Boy Now** <sup>[46]</sup> by Eileen Spinelli

When a young rabbit takes the training wheels off his bike, he learns something surprising about his dad.

**Demolition** <sup>[47]</sup>by Sally Sutton

Illustrations and rhyming text show the enormous and powerful machines that are used to demolish a building so that a playground can be built.

**Hop, Hop, Jump!** <sup>[48]</sup>by Lauren Thompson

Rhyming text, accompanied by labeled illustrations that identify parts of the body, encourages readers to wiggle and twist, stomp and zigzag, and hug and shrug.

**The Loud Book** <sup>[49]</sup>by Deborah Underwood

From the blare of an alarm clock in the morning to snores and crickets in the evening, simple text explores the many loud noises one might hear during the course of a day.

**The Kiss Box** <sup>[50]</sup>by Bonnie Verburg

As they prepare for a short separation, Mama Bear and Little Bear find a way to reassure each other while they are apart.

**Captain Small Pig** <sup>[51]</sup>by Martin Waddell

Small Pig and his friends Old Goat and Turkey spend the day in a rowboat on a lake.

### **Super Hungry Dinosaur** [52]by Martin Waddell

Hal and his little dog Billy deal with a dinosaur's monstrous hunger. Billy's mom makes him a super dinner which saves everyone from being eaten by the dinosaur.

### **The Perfect Hug** [53]by Joanne Walsh

In simple rhyming text the reader will explore many different kinds of hugs in the search for the perfect one.

### **Kisses for Daddy** [54]by Frances Watts

At bedtime, Baby Bear is grumbly and refuses to give Daddy a big bear kiss until his father demonstrates many other types of animal kisses.

### **Kiss Kiss!** [55]by Margaret Wild

Baby Hippo is in such a rush to play one morning he forgets to kiss his mama, but strangely all the jungle noises seem to remind him.

### **Listen to My Trumpet** [56]by Mo Willems

When Piggie plays her new trumpet for Gerald, the elephant decides he must be honest in his response.

### **Horseplay** [57]by Karma Wilson

A farmer tries to change the behavior of his rowdy horses who play all night and sleep all day.

## **Topic Guide:**

- Kids

---

**Source URL:** <http://www.bcls.lib.nj.us/best-books-pre-k-and-kindergarten>

#### **Links:**

- [1] <http://www.bcls.lib.nj.us/best-books-pre-k-and-kindergarten>
- [2] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=266949>
- [3] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=395007>
- [4] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=380106>
- [5] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=332314>
- [6] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=391936>
- [7] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=283486>
- [8] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=220464>
- [9] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=245943>
- [10] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=263025>
- [11] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=376586>
- [12] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=399277>
- [13] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=367067>
- [14] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=357541>
- [15] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=253535>
- [16] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=384494>
- [17] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=302113>
- [18] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=393423>
- [19] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=346793>
- [20] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=368068>

[21] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=287535>  
[22] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=361437>  
[23] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=394152>  
[24] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=402271>  
[25] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=243844>  
[26] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=356126>  
[27] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=405616>  
[28] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=390107>  
[29] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=413695>  
[30] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=275242>  
[31] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=366729>  
[32] <http://ipac2.bcls.lib.nj.us/ipac/20/ipac.jsp?index=ISBNEX&term=9780061920851>  
[33] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=385622>  
[34] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=387061>  
[35] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=365294>  
[36] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=354732>  
[37] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=365302>  
[38] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=413342>  
[39] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=376572>  
[40] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=394291>  
[41] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=380550>  
[42] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=217681>  
[43] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=364503>  
[44] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=345849>  
[45] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=415452>  
[46] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=387069>  
[47] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=399687>  
[48] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=394323>  
[49] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=365762>  
[50] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=383295>  
[51] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=346636>  
[52] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=335198>  
[53] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=406813>  
[54] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=311275>  
[55] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=227624>  
[56] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=385510>  
[57] <http://bcls.polarislibrary.com/polaris/search/title.aspx?cn=398237>