



June 2022

Dear Families of Incoming Kindergarten Students,

We are so looking forward to having a new crop of kindergartners in the fall! We know an exciting year is ahead for your entire family as your child embarks on his/her literacy journey. We look forward to working with you to ensure that the 2022-2023 school year is a positive and productive one for your son/daughter.

In fact, we would like to enlist your help this summer. If you are not already doing so, please make sure to read aloud to your child at least 20 minutes every day. Doing so builds listening and language skills, strengthens the parental bond, and helps instill a love for books. If you are looking for suggestions, the elementary reading team pulled together a list of some of their favorite books with links to audio recordings (see next page). Please keep in mind that these are only suggestions and that we strongly encourage your little one to discover books of interest to him/her. Also, while it is always nice to have a guest reader, it is almost guaranteed that you will be your child's favorite reader. Why not share one of your childhood favorites with your child this summer?

In addition to the book list, the elementary reading team also pulled together a list of some of their favorite online resources for access to free online books and games and resources to build or strengthen early literacy skills, including letter identification. You'll find this list after the book list.

NAEYC, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, also suggests, "encouraging your child to help you with thank you cards, shopping lists, or notes. They may start with scribbles or pictures, move into scattered letters, and finally write some recognizable words as they enter school. Appreciate their attempts and watch their skills develop with practice."

Finally, stay safe, have fun, and dive into as many books as you can with your child this summer. Without a doubt, it will be time well spent.

Dr. Jill Geiser, Assistant Superintendent

Billerica Public Schools

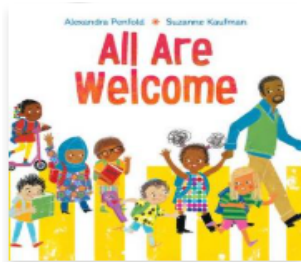


The destination for education.



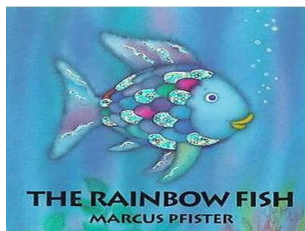
Bill E. Rica, Summer Reading Mascot

Entering Kindergarten Summer Reading Book List



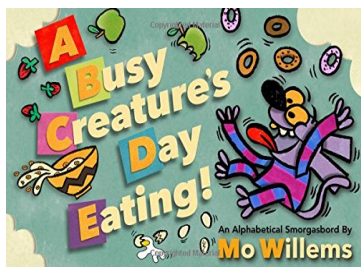
All Are Welcome by Alexandra Penfol and Suzanne Kaufman

A picture book that celebrates diversity and gives encouragement and support to all kids. Follow a group of children through a day in their school, where everyone is welcomed with open arms. A school where students grow and learn from each other's traditions and the whole community gathers to celebrate the Lunar New Year. Features rhyme, rhythm, and repetition. [All Are Welcome](#)



The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister

The *Rainbow Fish* is an award-winning book about a beautiful fish who finds friendship and happiness when he learns to share. The book is best known for its morals about the value of being an individual and for the distinctive shiny foil scales of the Rainbow Fish. [The Rainbow Fish](#)



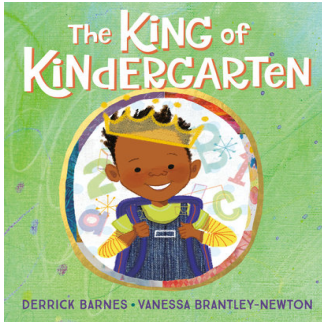
A Busy Creature's Day Eating by Mo Willems

Creature has decided to eat his way through the alphabet, starting with things like Apples, Berries, and Cereal, But by the time he gets to "F," he switches to some crazy things like Furniture and other non-edible items. Of course, this upsets his tummy and when he gets to "P," he needs to go Potty. [A Busy Creature's Day Eating](#)

See Next Page for Additional Suggestions...



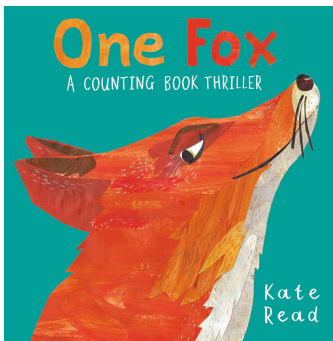
Entering Kindergarten Summer Reading Book List:



The King of Kindergarten by Derrick Barnes

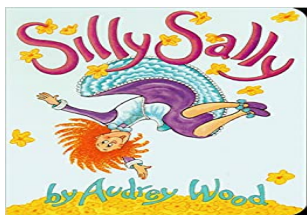
This fun and sweet book features a little boy who can't wait to start school after his mother tells him he'll be the King of Kindergarten. From riding in "a big yellow carriage" to "a grand fortress" to taking a "royal rest" at naptime, the boy's refreshing and joyous approach to the first day of school offers plenty of encouragement for reluctant incoming kindergarteners.

[The King Of Kindergarten](#)



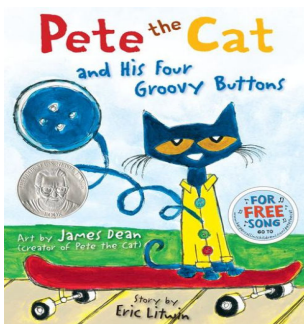
One Fox: A Counting Book Thriller by Kate Read

A stunningly gorgeous counting book with a delightful surprise. One hungry fox with two sly eyes is on the prowl...three plump hens had better watch out! Rich and colorful illustrations plunge the reader into a dramatic and exciting story set in a moonlit farmyard. With something different to count on each page, learning to count from one to ten has never been so thrilling! [ONE FOX A Counting Book Thriller](#)



Silly Sally by Audrey Wood

Silly Sally is a cute story where the main character meets different animals on her way into town. "On the way she met a pig, a silly pig who danced a jig." The rhyming words are fun for kids, and the pictures are vibrant. [Silly Sally](#)



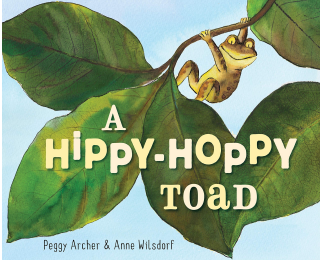
Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons by Eric Litwin

Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons is the third picture book featuring the mellow blue cat and his positive attitude towards life. While the story revolves around Pete and his reactions when one by one, he loses his four groovy buttons, Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons provides repetition and is also a number concept book. [Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons](#)

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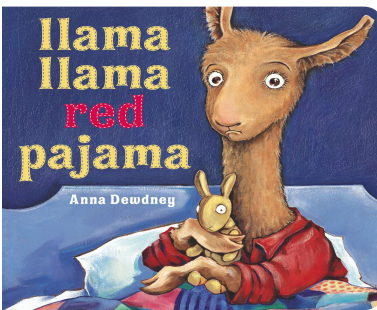
Entering Kindergarten Summer Reading Book List:



A Hippy-Hoppy Toad by Peggy Archer and Anne Wilsdorf

Rhythmic, repetitive, has delicious words with alliteration and onomatopoeia make this an excellent book to read aloud. Toad's having quite a busy day; a day where he encounters many other creatures. He begins as he ends, on a twig in the middle of a puddle...

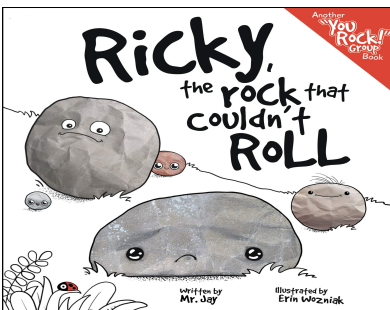
[A Hippy Hoppy Toad](#)



Llama Llama Red Pajama by Anna Dewdney

In this infectious rhyming picture book, Baby Llama turns bedtime into an all-out llama drama! Tucked into bed by his mama, Baby Llama immediately starts worrying when she goes downstairs, and his soft whimpers turn to hollers when she doesn't come right back. [Llama Llama Red Pajama a READ ALOUD](#)

[by Anna Dewdney](#)



Ricky the Rock that Couldn't Roll by Jay Miletsky

Join 14 spunky rocks (and their wise ladybug friend) on a fun and funny adventure about the importance of friendship and the power of perseverance. When the rocks get together to play and roll around their favorite hill, they find that one of their friends, Ricky, can't roll with them. [Ricky the Rock that Couldn't Roll](#)



Say Hello! By Rachel Isadora

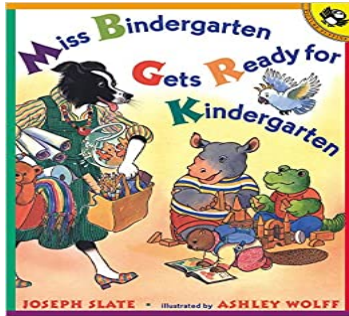
Carmelita walks through her vibrant and diverse neighborhood. She says hello to her neighbors in at least 9 different languages.

[Say Hello! Read Aloud](#)

See Next Page for Additional Suggestions...

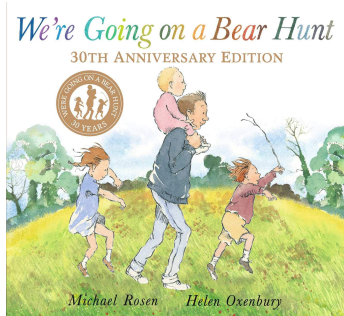


Entering Kindergarten Summer Reading Book List:



Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten by Joseph Slate

Miss Bindergarten prepares her classroom for the first day of kindergarten. Her students, who each begin with a different letter of the alphabet, are also getting ready for the big day at home. [Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten By Joseph Slate | Children's Book Read Aloud](#)

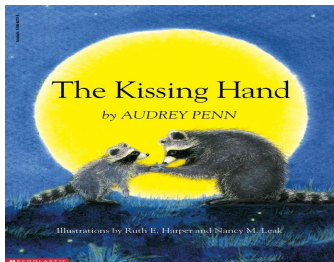


We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen

We're Going on a Bear Hunt is an award winning story involving a family going on an adventure to find a bear but they have to face numerous obstacles to get there, and once they arrive at the cave they are scared by what they find. [We're Going on a Bear Hunt - Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury](#)



Gaston by Kelly DiPucchio Gaston, an adorable pup, lives with his loving and proper poodle pack, until an outing reveals there's more to family than meets the eye. [Gaston](#)



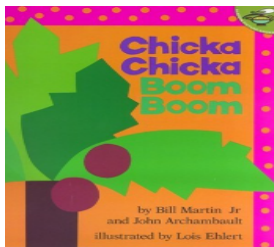
The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn

School is starting in the forest, but Chester Raccoon does not want to go. To help ease Chester's fears, Mrs. Raccoon shares a family secret called "the Kissing Hand" to give him the reassurance of her love any time his world feels a little scary. [The Kissing Hand](#)

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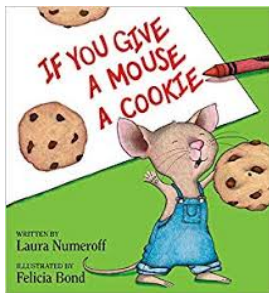


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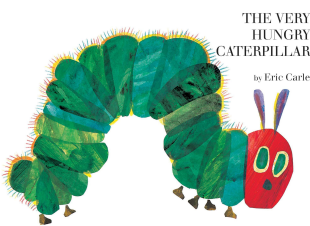
Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin

The 26 characters in this rhythmic, rhyming book are a lowercase alphabet with attitude. "A told b, and b told c, 'I'll meet you at the top of the coconut tree'"--which probably seemed like a good idea until the other 23 members of the gang decided to follow suit. [Chicka Chicka Boom Boom](#)



If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Numeroff

This story describes a set of events that occurs after a boy gives a mouse a cookie. Once the mouse is given the cookie, he asks for a glass of milk, which ends up leading to a series of additional requests. Each event that occurs makes the mouse want something new, creating a seemingly endless stream of demands. [If You Give a Mouse a Cookie](#)



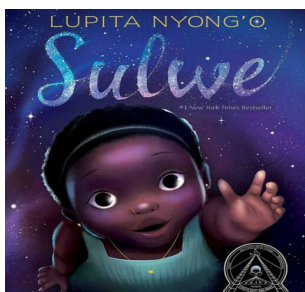
The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

A small caterpillar emerges from an egg and begins eating everything in sight. Finally, it is no longer hungry and no longer small. The big, fat caterpillar builds a cocoon around himself and finally emerges as a beautiful butterfly. [The Very Hungry Caterpillar](#)



Here We Are by Oliver Jeffers

Our world can be a bewildering place, especially if you've only just got here. Your head will be filled with questions, so let's explore what makes our planet and how we live on it. From land and sky, to people and time, these notes can be your guide and start you on your journey. [Here We Are - Read Aloud Picture Book | Brightly Storytime](#)



Sulwe by Lupita Nyong'o

Sulwe has skin the color of midnight. She is darker than everyone in her family. She is darker than anyone in her school. Sulwe just wants to be beautiful and bright, like her mother and sister. Then a magical journey in the night sky opens her eyes and changes everything. <https://sulwebylupita.com/>



Online Resources

Books/Read Alouds:

<https://www.storylineonline.net/> The SAG-AFTRA Foundation's Daytime Emmy nominated, **Storyline Online**, features celebrated actors including Viola Davis, Kristen Bell, Chris Pine, Lily Tomlin

<https://www.getepic.com/> The basic plan provides access to one free book a day.

www.storynory.com FREE audio stories for kids, including fairy tales, original stories, myths, poems, music, history and audiobooks all read beautifully by professional actors.

Reading Games & Activities that Support Early Literacy Development:

www.starfall.com At **Starfall**, children have fun while they learn - specializing in reading, phonics & math - educational games, movies, books, songs, and more for children K-3.

www.storyplace.org Welcome to **StoryPlace**! Our Pre-school Library is full of great activities for you to explore. Choose a theme below to start the fun! Animal theme icon.

<https://www.education.com/games/preschool/reading/> Try these **preschool reading** games from the **online** learning system, Brainzy. From alphabet **practice** to **interactive** storybooks, we've got games that make learning fun. ... How the Camel Got His Hump: **Reading Comprehension**. Game.

www.readwritethink.org Providing educators and students access to the highest quality practices and resources in reading and language arts instruction.

www.pbskids.org Explore **reading** and play **games** with your favorite **PBS KIDS** characters like Elmo, WordGirl, Super Why and Daniel Tiger!

www.oxfordowl.co.uk Discover expert advice, educational resources and free eBooks to support children's learning at primary school and at home, from **Oxford** University Press. www.abcya.com Educational games for grades PreK through 6 that will keep kids engaged and having fun.

