

# 101 Great Picture Books for Preschoolers

Visit your library to look for these books.



**Actual Size** by Steve Jenkins | Just how big is a crocodile? What about a tiger, or the world's largest spider? Can you imagine a tongue that is two feet long or an eye that is bigger than your head?

**Art Box** by Gail Gibbons | Introduces the tools contained in an art box, as well as a simple explanation of primary and secondary colors.

**Bark, George** by Jules Feiffer | What is a mother to do when her puppy, George, meows, moos, oinks, and quacks instead of barking?

**A Beach Tail** by Karen Lynn Williams | A simple tale of a day at the beach with a boy and his dad.

**Bear Snores On** by Karma Wilson | As Bear hibernates, he is unaware that other animals have taken refuge in his cave. (series)

**Bedhead** by Margie Palatini | Oliver is having a bad hair day; nothing his parents or sister tries begins to help.

**Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?** by Bill Martin, Jr. | This classic picture book will have children chiming in and easily predicting the next rhyme.

**Building Our House** by Jonathan Bean | Join a girl and her family as they pack up their old house in town and set out to build a new one in the country.

**The Bus for Us\*\*** by Suzanne Bloom | Today is Tess's first day of school and her very first ride on a school bus. As a multitude of vehicles passes by, Tess eagerly asks, "Is this the bus for us, Gus?"

**Caps for Sale** by Esphyr Slobodkina | Can a peddler outwit a band of monkeys who snatch his caps while he naps?

**Chato and the Party Animals** by Gary Soto | Chato, the barrio cat, discovers that his best friend, Novio Boy, never had a birthday party so he decides to organize one.

**The Cloud Book** by Tomie DePaola | Introduces the ten most common types of clouds, the myths that have been inspired by their shapes, and what they can tell about coming weather changes.

**Come on Rain** by Karen Hesse | As the downpour approaches, Tessie gathers her neighborhood friends for a romp in the raindrops.

**Curious George Rides a Bike** by H. A. Rey | George helps a little boy with his paper route and gets into all sorts of trouble.

**Diary of a Worm** by Doreen Cronin | A young worm discovers day by day that there are some very good and some not so good things about being a worm in this great big world.

**Dinosaur Alphabet Book** by Jerry Pallotta | From Ankylosaurus to Zephyrosaurus and many others in between, this book offers pictures and amazing facts about all kinds of dinosaurs.

**Doctor De Soto** by William Steig | Dr. De Soto, a mouse dentist, copes with the toothaches of various animals except those with a taste for mice, until the day a fox comes to him in great pain.

**Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus** by Mo Willems | As the bus driver leaves, a pigeon argues with the reader about why he should be able to drive a bus. (series)

**The Doorbell Rang** by Pat Hutchins | Ma has made a dozen delicious cookies. It should be plenty for her two children. But then the doorbell rings—and rings and rings.

**Extra Yarn** by Mac Barnett | The story of how a young girl and her box of magical yarn transform a community.

**Fancy Nancy** by Jane O'Connor | Nancy likes to be fancy and decides to rescue her family from their ho-hum wardrobe by giving them lessons in accessorizing. (series)

**Feathers for Lunch** by Lois Ehlert | No matter how hard he tries, the black and white cat cannot quite catch the birds that flutter above him.

**Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed** by Eileen Christelow | A classic children's rhyme is expanded into a humorous story with engaging illustrations. (series)

**Freight Train** by Donald Crews | Follow a colorful train as it journeys through a tunnel, past cities and over a trestle.

**A Frog in the Bog** by Karma Wilson | A clever counting book about a frog on a log, in the middle of the bog, that is eating some swamp delicacies until he sees an alligator.

**The Gingerbread Man** by Eric Kimmel | A freshly baked gingerbread man escapes when he is taken out of the oven and eludes a number of animals until he meets a clever fox.

**Giraffes Can't Dance** by Giles Andreae | A touching tale of Gerald the giraffe, who wants nothing more than to dance. With crooked knees and thin legs, it's harder for a giraffe than you would think.

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**Giving Thanks** by Chief Jake Swamp | A salute to Mother Earth and all her beauty, traditionally delivered at the beginning of each day, bears witness to the Native American reverence for the natural world.

**Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns** by Hena Khan | Everyday colors are given special meaning as readers learn about clothing, food, and other important elements of Islamic culture.

**Goldilocks and the Three Bears** by James Marshall | A fabulously funny retelling of the classic story of the “naughty” little girl who invades the home of a bear family.

**Good Night, Gorilla** by Peggy Rathmann | A zookeeper is saying good night to all the animals; but, is unaware that the gorilla has stolen his keys and is unlocking the other animal cages.

**Green** by Laura Vaccaro Seeger | How many kinds of green are there? With lush illustrations and simple, rhyming text, this book explores the many shades of the color green.

**Growing Vegetable Soup** by Lois Ehlert | The entire process of growing plants from seeds is described, and then the vegetables are used to make soup (recipe included).

**Happy Birthday Moon** by Frank Asch | Bear wants to give the moon a birthday present, but before he does, he needs to find out what the moon wants.

**Harold and the Purple Crayon** by Crockett Johnson | Simple illustrations show how imagination can create new worlds and inspire incredible adventures.

**Harry the Dirty Dog** by Gene Zion | An adventurous dog, who does not like baths, finds that sometimes being scrubbed is much better than staying grubby. (series)

**Horton Hears a Who** by Dr. Seuss | Horton the elephant decides “A person’s a person no matter how small.”

**Hottest, Coldest, Highest, Deepest** by Steve Jenkins | Identifies and describes places such as the planet’s deepest lake, highest mountain, most active volcano, and the places designated the hottest, the coldest, the wettest, the driest, and the windiest on Earth.

**How Do Dinosaurs Get Well Soon?** by Jane Yolen | A playful tale about a sick dinosaur child who catches the flu and goes to the doctor.

**I Stink** by Katie and Jim McMullan | A big city garbage truck makes its rounds, consuming everything from apple cores to leftover ziti with zucchini.

**If You Give a Mouse a Cookie** by Laura Joffe Numeroff | Relating the cycle of requests a mouse is likely to make after you give him a cookie takes the reader through a young child’s day. (series)

**If You Were a Penguin\*\*** by Florence and Wendell Minor | Readers find out all the remarkable things they could do if they were a penguin.

**Inch by Inch** by Lio Lionni | Inchworm is proud of his ability to measure anything under the sun.

**Inside Mouse, Outside Mouse\*\*** by Lindsay Barrett George | Each time you turn the page two pictures appear, showing how the inside mouse lives on one side and the outside mouse on the other page.

**Is Your Mama a Llama?** by Deborah Guarino | A young llama asks his friends if their mamas are llamas and finds out, in rhyme, that their mothers are other types of animals.

**Joseph Had a Little Overcoat\*** by Sims Taback | A very old overcoat is recycled numerous times into a variety of garments.

**Kite Day** by Will Hillenbrand | Bear and Mole build a kite and take it out on a windy day, but when the weather suddenly turns stormy, there are unexpected consequences for some birds.

**Kitten’s First Full Moon** by Kevin Henkes | Kitten mistakes the full moon for a bowl of milk, and ends up tired, wet, and hungry while trying to reach it.

**Knuffle Bunny** by Mo Willems | Toddler Trixie leaves her favorite stuffed bunny behind in the laundromat by mistake, and when the family finally finds it, Trixie utters her first words. (series)

**Lion and the Mouse\*** by Jerry Pinkney | In this wordless retelling of an Aesop fable, an adventuresome mouse proves that even small creatures are capable of great deeds when he rescues the King of the Jungle.

**The Little Engine That Could** by Watty Piper | The well-known classic tale of a little train that is able to climb a high mountain due to positive thinking.

**Little Red Hen** by Paul Galdone | The classic story of the little red hen that does all the work around the house without help from her housemates. The repetitive refrain is great for preschoolers to chime in.

**Llama Llama Red Pajama** by Anna Dewdney | A rhyming bedtime tale of a young llama who has trouble going to sleep when his mother leaves the room. (series)

**Machines Go to Work in the City** by William Low | A variety of urban machines are shown in all their glory as they work under, through, and above the city.

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**Madeline** by Ludwig Bemelmans | Madeline, smallest and naughtiest of the twelve little charges of Miss Clavel, wakes up one night with an attack of appendicitis. (series)

**Make Way for Ducklings** by Robert McCloskey | The classic tale of Mr. and Mrs. Mallard Duck raising their family of ducklings in Boston's Public Garden and the help they receive from a policeman.

**Martin's Big Words** by Doreen Rappaport | This picture-book biography is an excellent introduction for young readers to learn about one of the world's most influential leaders, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel** by Virginia Lee Burton | Mike Mulligan and his steam shovel, Mary Ann, go to a little country town and dig their way to a surprising and happy ending.

**The Mitten** by Jan Brett | Several animals sleep snugly in Nicki's lost mitten until the bear sneezes.

**Moon Plane** by Peter McCarty | A young boy sees a plane overhead and imagines himself in it, traveling all the way to the moon. What does he see on his way?

**Mouse Shapes** by Ellen Stoll Walsh | When a cat chases three mice, they hide in a heap of colorful shapes, which they use to make objects for their escape. (series)

**Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters** by John Steptoe | Mufaro's two beautiful daughters, one bad-tempered, one kind and sweet, go before the king, who is choosing a wife.

**My Truck Is Stuck** by Kevin Lewis | A rhyming tale of two dogs who are hauling a load of bones in their dump truck and the truck gets stuck.

**My Very First Mother Goose** edited by Iona Opie | A collection of more than sixty nursery rhymes including "Hey Diddle, Diddle," "Pat-a-Cake," "Little Jack Horner," and "Pussycat, Pussycat."

**The Napping House** by Audrey Wood | A rhythmic, repetitive text tells the story of a snoring granny, a dreaming child, a dozing dog, a snoozing cat, a slumbering mouse, and a disruptive, wakeful flea.

**Nighttime Ninja** by Barbara DaCosta | Late at night, when all is quiet and everyone is asleep, a ninja creeps silently through the house in search of treasure.

**Oh, No!** by Candace Fleming | Five animals are disturbed by a grinning tiger and fall into a hole, one by one. This suspenseful cumulative tale is an engaging read-aloud.

**Old MacDonald Had a Farm** by Jane Cabrera | Brightly colored child-appealing illustrations accompany this favorite children's song.

**Olivia Forms a Band** by Ian Falconer | Olivia finds out that there is not a band for the evening fireworks, so she decided to create her own band. (series)

**One Cool Friend** by Toni Buzzeo | Elliot feels a kinship with the penguins at the aquarium and wants to take one home with him.

**Open This Little Book** by Jesse Klausmeier | Rabbit, Frog, Bear, and Ladybug are all reading their own books, but when Giant can't open his small title, they work together to make sure he can get in on the joy of reading.

**Otis** by Loren Long | When a big new yellow tractor arrives, Otis the friendly, hard-working tractor is cast away behind the barn, but when trouble occurs, Otis is the only one who can help.

**Owl Moon** by Jane Yolen | On a winter's night, under a full moon, a father and daughter trek into the woods to see the Great Horned Owl.

**Pete the Cat: Wheels on the Bus** by James Dean | Join Pete as he rides on the bus to school with his friends and hears all the different sounds a bus makes as it drives. A new take on the classic children's song.

**Possum Magic** by Mem Fox | Two Australian possums go in search of the magic that will make the invisible one visible.

**Read-Aloud Rhymes for the Very Young** selected by Jack Prelutsky | Page after page of old favorites, traditional rhymes, and humorous verses—that will delight young listeners.

**Red-Eyed Tree Frog** by Joy Cowley | In a tropical rain forest in Central America, a red-eyed tree frog spends the night looking for food while avoiding potential predators.

**Red Sings from Treetops: A Year in Colors** by Shutta Crum | Poems celebrate color and enliven the senses, as readers follow a woman and her dog through the seasons.

**Sheep on a Ship** by Nancy Shaw | An irresistible sea adventure by the zany sheep first featured in *Sheep in a Jeep*.

**Sleep Like a Tiger** by Mary Logue | When a little girl announces that she is not sleepy, her wise parents counter that they are not requiring sleep, only pajama-wearing, face-washing, and teeth-brushing.

**Snowy Day\*** by Ezra Jack Keats | Peter sets out on an adventure to enjoy the year's first snowfall.

**A Splendid Friend, Indeed\*\*** by Suzanne Bloom | A talkative goose starts out annoying a bear no matter what the bear is doing, but in the end the two become friends.

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**Stop Snoring, Bernard\*\*** by Zachariah O'Hara | Bernard's snoring keeps all the zoo animals awake, so he tries to find a new place to sleep that won't bother the others. Children will enjoy repeating the other animals' cry—"Stop Snoring, Bernard!"

**Stripes of All Types\*\*** by Susan Stockdale | This book brings to life a patterned parade of animals, showing young readers some of the many reasons stripes are found so often in nature.

**The Tale of Peter Rabbit** by Beatrix Potter | Peter disobeys his mother by going into Mr. McGregor's garden, and almost gets caught.

**Ten Things I Can Do to Help My World** by Melanie Walsh | Ten great ideas to help young children protect our environment.

**This Plane** by Peter Collicutt | From a piece of folded paper to a supersonic passenger plane, this book celebrates all kinds of planes.

**Today Is Monday** by Eric Carle | This song about hungry children and what they eat different days of the week can be sung or read.

**Train Man** by Andrea Zimmerman | A perfect read for all young train lovers.

**True Story of the Three Little Pigs** by John Scieszka | The story of the three little pigs told from the wolf's point of view.

**Turtle Splash** by Cathryn Falwell | A countdown rhyme with insects, mammals, and birds that share a pond habitat.

**Under One Rock** by Anthony Fredericks | Have you ever peeked under a rock? A whole community of creatures lives there! One of the world's most fascinating habitats is right at your feet.

**Up, Down and Around\*\*** by Katherine Ayres | A garden produces a variety of edible plants, such as corn that grows up, onions that grow down, and tomato vines that twine all around.

**The Very Hungry Caterpillar** by Eric Carle | The classic tale of a hungry caterpillar that eats different food every day of the week and finally turns into a beautiful butterfly.

**We're Going on a Bear Hunt** by Michael Rosen | Brave hunters go through grass, a river, mud, and more on their way to the bear cave.

**What a Treasure!\*\*\*** by Jane Hillenbrand | Mole has a new shovel and is digging for buried treasure. Readers will be amazed at all the items he finds and how he shares what he finds.

**When Sophie Gets Angry – Really, Really Angry** by Molly Bang | Sophie gets angry at her family and runs outside to her favorite beech tree where she calms down and then returns back to her family life.

**Where the Wild Things Are** by Maurice Sendak | A naughty little boy, sent to bed without his supper, sails to the land of the wild things where he becomes their king.

**Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears\*** by Verna Aardema | How a mosquito's silly lie to an iguana sets in motion a cumulative series of events.

**Wild About You** by Judy Sierra | After the tree kangaroo welcomes an unusual egg into her pouch and the pandas adopt a kitten, the three grown-up animals find themselves with families that aren't quite what they expected.

**Z is for Moose** by Kelly Bingham | Moose, terribly eager to play his part in the alphabet book his friend Zebra is putting together, then awfully disappointed when his letter passes, behaves rather badly until Zebra finds a spot for him.

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Illustration by Lindsay Barrett George

\*Caldecott Award Winner \*\*Pennsylvania One Book, Every Young Child Title

Please visit your local library to read or check-out these books. Please note that many of the authors (and series) listed above have other titles on different subjects that are also appropriate for young children.

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