



Easy Reader Books

Visit your library to look for these books.

Introduction to Beginning Readers

Pictures are on every page in pre-emergent and emergent books. The illustrations support the content and serve as essential visual clues to help decode the text and concepts that young readers may otherwise find difficult. It is a common misunderstanding that picture books are the best format choice for beginning readers.

Picture books themselves may be very sophisticated, not always offering the content and formula that beginning readers need to practice their reading skills. Picture books are generally written with the intention to be read aloud to children, which conversely means they are written in levels higher than the ability of the child's reading level. We still have included some picture books in the list and have noted the format because they were just wonderful choices to supplement and vary the traditional beginning reader format.

Pre-emergent

These books are for the very beginning readers. A good deal of white space per page provides children hard at work a place to rest their eyes. Additionally, the space between the words should be wide and clear to help children learn where one word ends and another word begins.

The Big Game by Louise A. Gikow | A child who has trouble with some of the soccer skills finds an important role as goalie. (My First Reader series)

Big Pig and Little Pig by David McPhail | Despite their differences, Big Pig and Little Pig are great friends. When they get together, these piggy pals have nothing but fun. (Green Light Readers series)

A Big Surprise by Kristi T. Butler | Armed with wrapped birthday presents, several animal friends travel to a mouse's house for her surprise birthday party. (Green Light Readers series)

Biscuit and the Little Pup by Alyssa Satin Capucilli | After meeting a shy little pup in the park, Biscuit does his best to make him come out of his shell by offering him his favorite ball, chewy bone, and a warm invite into his cozy hideaway. (My First I Can Read series)

Chicken Said "Cluck!" by Judyann Ackerman Grant | Earl and Pearl do not want Chicken's help in the garden, especially since she always gets in the way, until a swarm of grasshoppers arrives and her true talent shines. (My First I Can Read series)

Cloudy Day/Sunny Day by Donald Crews | The day is gray and cloudy. It's a good day to snuggle up with a book, a fine day for make-believe, until . . . the sun bursts through the clouds! Now it's a great day to fly a kite, the perfect day to ride a bike. (Green Light Readers series)

The Day I Had to Play With My Sister by Crosby Bonsall | Older brother thinks he knows the rules to hide-and-seek. But little sister has her own idea of how to play. And the resulting confusion, compounded by a lively dog, is hilarious. (My First I Can Read series)

Desert Animals by Sharon Gordon | Easy to read text with rebuses explores animals that live in the desert.

Dirty Larry by Bobbie Hamsa | No matter what he does, Larry always gets dirty—except in the shower. (Rookie Reader series)

Dragon Egg by Mallory Loehr | A dragon's egg rolls out of its nest in a cave, continuing along a road, past a castle, and through a town, where it bumps against a rock and cracks. (Step into Reading series)

Freddie and Flossie and the Leaf Monster by Laura Lee Hope | Freddie and Flossie are raking the leaves when they notice their pile start to shake! And it has eyes and a tail! Could it be the dreaded leaf monster? (Ready to Read series)

Just Clowning Around: Two Stories by Steven MacDonald | A young bear and her dad, both circus clowns, spend a day showing off their tricks for each other.

Just Like Me by Barbara J. Neasi | Jennifer tells of the many ways that she and her twin sister, Julie, are alike and different. (Rookie Readers series)

Max & Mo Make A Snowman by Patricia Lakin | When it starts snowing one school day, Max and Mo, the art room hamsters, watch the "Big Ones" outside making snowmen, and they decide to make one too. (Ready to Read series)

My Amazing Body: A First Look at Health and Fitness by Pat Thomas | This picture book explores all aspects of health and fitness. The importance of a good diet and plenty of exercise is looked at in a simple and informative way. While learning about their bodies, children can start to make positive decisions about caring for themselves. (A First Look At series)

A New Home by Tim Bowers | Matt the squirrel has a new home, but misses his old friends. (Green Light Readers series)

Pizza Party! by Grace Maccarone | A group of children have fun making a pizza. (Hello Reader series)

Puppy Mudge Loves His Blanket by Cynthia Rylant | Mudge loves his blanket so much that when it gets lost, Henry has to find it or Mudge might never go to sleep. (Ready to Read series)

Quack Shack by Harriet Ziefert | Humorous illustrations and die-cut pages introduce short vowel sounds in this Flip-a-Word book. (Flip-a-Word series)

Sam and Jack: Three Stories by Alex Moran | In these three very short and simple stories, Jack the cat and Sam the mouse discover each other and become friends. (Green Light Readers series)

Silly Milly by Wendy Cheyette Lewison | Invites the reader to solve the riddle of why Silly Milly likes certain things and dislikes others. (Scholastic Reader series)

Spring Is Here: A Story About Seeds by Joan Holub | In autumn, the little friends from Ant Hill find and plant some seeds, then patiently wait until spring to enjoy the plants that appear. (Ready to Read series)

Stinky by Eleanor Davis | Stinky the monster is content in the smelly swamp that he shares with his pet toad and other friendly animals until a boy from the nearby town wanders into the area. (Toon Book series)

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Thunder and Lightning by Alice K. Flanagan | Describes the phenomena of thunder and lightning, how they occur and how they affect the earth. (Weather Watch series)

Tiny Goes Camping by Cari Meister | Youngsters will be delighted with this story about an enormous dog and the small boy who owns him. (Puffin Easy to Read series)

Wait, Skates and Other Funny Stories by Mildred D. Johnson and others | Four humorous short stories, including a young girl who loves pickles, a girl who claims her sister does not share, and a boy whose roller skates have a mind of their own. (Rookie Readers series)

Water Everywhere by Christine Taylor Butler | A young child describes some of the many ways water is used. (Rookie Readers series)

Wet Pet by Harriet Ziefert | These books, illustrated in a style evocative of Japanese anime, explore relationships between words through bright pictures and die cuts in the pages. (Flip-a-Word series)

What Is Up When You Are Down? by David F. Marx | An illustrated series of questions and answers about up and down, in and out, cool and hot. (Rookie Readers series)

Zoom! Boom! Bully by Jon Scieszka | Big Rig loves to smash items delivered to a construction site, including barrels, crates, tires, and even his own birthday presents. (Ready to Read series)

Emergent

These books have more text than pre-emergent books, yet still have repetition of a controlled vocabulary and larger print and text spacing.

About Habitats: Mountains by Cathryn Sill | In simple, easy to understand language, this guide teaches children what mountains are and what kind of animals and plants live in mountain habitats. (About Habitats series)

Amazing Sharks! by Sarah L. Thomson | Explains basic facts of shark life and elaborates on the diversity of different species. Comparisons are made with real-life objects; readers learn that some sharks are so small that they can be held in the palm of the hand while others are longer than a pickup truck. (I Can Read Nonfiction series)

Are You My Mother by P.D. Eastman | A mother bird sits on her egg that is about to hatch. She thinks the egg will hatch shortly so she leaves the nest to find food, and while she is away the egg hatches and the baby bird leaves the nest in search of his mother. (Beginner Books series)

Baby Animals by Seymour Simon | Facts are about baby animals. (SeeMore Readers series)

The Berenstain Bears New Pup by Stan and Jan Berenstain | Mama, Sister, and Brother are excited about the puppy they bring home from Farmer Ben's farm, even though she takes a lot of care. (I Can Read series)

Cat the Cat Who Is That? by Mo Willems | Willems offers successful reading experiences for the earliest readers, complete with fun-loving, friendly characters and surprise story lines. (Cat the Cat series)

The Chick That Wouldn't Hatch by Claire Daniel | Before she hatches from her egg, a baby chick takes quite a trip around the farm—with her mother and other animals in pursuit. (Green Light Readers series)

Duck and Company by Kathy Caple | Rat and Duck run a bookshop and work to find the right book for each of their customers. (Holiday House Reader series)

Elephants Cannot Dance by Mo Willems | Gerald the elephant is certain that he cannot dance but his friend Piggie convinces him to try. (Elephant and Piggie series)

Fire Alarm! by Nancy Krulik | Miss Popper's first grade class takes a trip to the fire station. When the alarm bell rings, who will save the day? (Appleville Elementary series)

Fred and Ted Like to Fly by Peter Eastman | Friends Fred and Ted fly their planes to the beach and enjoy spending the day together, even though they do things very differently all along the way. (Beginner Books series)

Go Dog Go by P.D. Eastman | Different kinds of dogs drive cars, wear hats, run around in mazes, and even have wild parties in treetops. A vocabulary-building story about dogs engaged in every imaginable type of activity. (Beginner Books series)

Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss | Sam-I-Am tries to convince others that green eggs and ham is a good breakfast illustrating the principle that things are not always as they seem. (Beginner Books series)

Joe and Sparky Get New Wheels by Jamie Michalak | An adventurous giraffe drives off with his friend, a cautious turtle, to see the world. (Candlewick Sparks series)

A Kiss for Little Bear by Else Holmelund Minarik | Grandmother likes Little Bear's picture so much she sends him a thank you kiss. "Will you take it to him, Hen?" she says. Hen passes the kiss to Frog who passes it to Cat who passes it to Little Skunk until Hen decides there is too much kissing—and finally gives the kiss to the Little Bear. (An I Can Read Book)

Little Mouse Gets Ready by Jeff Smith | Little Mouse gets dressed to go to the barn with his mother, brothers, and sisters. (Toon Book series)

Martin Luther King Jr. Day by Margaret McNamara | A first-grade class takes a field trip to a museum and learns about Doctor King. (Ready to Read series)

Max Goes to the Zoo by Adria F. Klein | Max and his friend Lily go to the zoo and enjoy the antics of the elephants, monkeys, giraffes, and many other animals. (Read it! Readers series)

Peanut and Pearl's Picnic Adventure by Rebecca Kai Dotlich | Peanut and Pearl, next-door neighbors and best friends, decide to go on a picnic together. When both critters lead the way in opposite directions, both end up lost. (My First I Can Read series)

Pedro's Burro by Alyssa Satin Capucilli | Pedro and Papa travel to market to select a new burro, but they wonder how they will find the right one. (My First I Can Read series)

Pip Squeak by Sarah Weeks | Pip Squeak the mouse works hard to clean the house for his friend Max's visit, but then he has to clean up after Max too. (I Can Read series)

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Pizza for Sam by Mary Labatt | Sam the dog watches eagerly as his owners set out cakes, cookies, and pies for a party. But each time Sam approaches the food table, he's shooed away: "Not for puppies!" Then Sam's presented with traditional dog food, but he turns up his snout, preferring to go hungry . . . until a pizza arrives and he finds his perfect puppy chow. (Kids Can Read series)

Shampooole by Joan Holub | Rhyming text describes a dog grooming establishment on picture day and the uproar some curious kittens cause when they try to explore. (Step into Reading series)

There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed Fly Guy by Ted Arnold | After accidentally swallowing her grandson's pet fly, Grandma tries to retrieve it by consuming progressively larger animals. (Fly Guy series)

Thomas and The School Trip by Wilbert Vere Awdry | Attempting to hurry through his work so that he can give some school children a ride, Thomas the Tank Engine must overcome a series of obstacles. (Step into Reading series)

Today I Will Fly by Mo Willems | While Piggie is determined to fly, Elephant is skeptical, but when Piggie gets a little help from others, amazing things happen. (Elephant and Piggie series)

Early Fluent

These books have even more text, and fewer pictures per page. Spacing between words starts to decline and appears standard; you may notice the print appears smaller than the font in emergent readers, or looks more common. Story structures are more complex, and repetitive patterns and rhyming text significantly decrease.

Amanda Pig, First Grader by Jean Van Leeuwen | Amanda is very excited about starting first grade, and although everything is not exactly as she expected, she soon begins learning to read and finding her way. (Puffin Easy to Read series)

Amazing Bats by Seymour Simon | An introduction to bats, covering their physical characteristics, habits, prey, and relationship to humans. (See More Readers series)

Amazing Snakes! by Sarah L. Thomas | If you were a snake you could sleep all winter; grow as long as a school bus; swallow your food whole; crawl out of your skin! Find out more about these fascinating creatures. (I Can Read Nonfiction series)

Amelia Bedelia and The Baby by Peggy Parish | Amelia Bedelia follows to the letter the list of instructions for looking after the Lanes' baby. (I Can Read series)

Annie and Snowball and The Cozy Nest by Cynthia Rylant | Annie and her bunny watch and wait as a nest is built above the porch swing, and eventually they get to see the mother bird feeding her babies. (Ready to Read series)

A Bargain For Frances by Russell Hoban | Thelma usually outsmarts Frances until Frances decides to teach her a lesson about friendship. (I Can Read series)

Celebrate Diwali by Deborah Heiligman | Diwali celebrates the triumph of good over evil, and of light over darkness. Although celebrated differently in different places, Diwali is universally viewed as a time of great joy, celebrated with fireworks, sweets, and gifts. (Holidays Around the World series)

Commander Toad and The Planet of The Grapes by Jane Yolen | In search of new worlds to explore, Commander Toad and his crew land their space ship "Star Warts" on the strange Planet of the Grapes. (Commander Toad series)

Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa by Erica Silverman | When Cocoa decides to explore the house, Cowgirl Kate has a hard time convincing him he must return to the barn. (Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa series)

George and Martha: Two Great Friends by James Marshall | Three more silly stories for new readers share the experiences of two hippopotamuses who find that friendship has its own problems and rewards. (series)

Good Night, Good Knight by Shelley Moore Thomas | A Good Knight helps three little dragons who are having trouble getting to sleep. (Puffin Easy-to-Read series)

Henry and Mudge and The Big Sleepover by Cynthia Rylant | Henry and his dog Mudge are invited to a sleepover in Patrick's attic, where they watch monster movies, eat pizza, and enjoy a contest to determine whose dog is the best popcorn catcher. (Ready to Read series)

Morris Goes to School by Bernard Wiseman | Morris the moose has an exciting day in school learning the alphabet, counting, singing, spelling, and doing other things that make him a unique moose. (I Can Read series)

Mr. Putter and Tabby Spill the Beans by Cynthia Rylant | Although he would rather be sipping an ice cream soda, Mr. Putter and his cat Tabby attend a cooking class with Mrs. Teaberry and her dog Zeke, where they learn 100 ways to cook beans. (Mr. Putter and Tabby series)

Pearl and Wagner: Four Eyes by Kate McMullan | When Wagner's eye test shows that he needs glasses, it takes him a little while—and some help from his friends—to adjust to his new look. (Dial Easy-to-Read series)

Poppleton in Spring by Cynthia Rylant | Poppleton the pig celebrates spring by doing some spring "cleaning," attempting to buy a bicycle, and spending some time in a tent. (Scholastic Reader series)

Why Are Animals Orange by Melissa Stewart | The world is a rainbow of animals, and this series sets out to explain why. There is much repetition within these books, and a pattern quickly emerges as to how or why certain species appear as they do. (Rainbow of Animals series)

Young Cam Jansen and the Speedy Car Mystery by David Adler | Cam Jansen uses her photographic memory at the school Green Fair to solve a mystery involving a missing electric car. (Puffin Easy to Read series)

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Fluent

These books have more challenging ideas and themes. Books begin to have chapters (note that some of the early fluent do as well). This is a big sense of accomplishment for a developing reader! Vocabulary is more complex. Sentence structures are longer, and illustrations are fewer.

The Amazing Trail of Seymour Snail by Lynn E. Hazen | Hoping to become a famous artist one day, Seymour Snail takes a job in a New York City art gallery, where everyone is buzzing about a “magnificent mystery artist.”

Annie and Simon by Catharine O’Neil | A little girl and her big brother, accompanied by their unruly dog, experiment with hair styling, paddle their canoe, cope with a bee sting, and watch for falling stars. (Candlewick Sparks series)

Bad to the Bone by Lucy Nolan | As told from the perspective of the dog, Down Girl, she explains about her days protecting her home from the enemy next door, Here Kitty Kitty, and the many ways she tries to properly train her master, Rruff. (Down Girl and Sit series)

Benny and Penny in the Big No-No! by Geoffrey Hayes | Two mice meet their new neighbor and discover that she is not as scary as they feared. (Toon Book series)

A Birthday for Bear by Bonny Becker | The winning stars of *A Visitor for Bear* make a return engagement, this time in early-reader format. Grumpy old Bear is totally uninterested in celebrating his birthday, but his cheery friend Mouse doggedly dons several comical disguises to trick and cajole him into enjoying the festive trappings of a party invitation, balloons, and a present. (Candlewick Sparks series)

Bones and the Clown Mix-Up Mystery by David A. Adler | Detective Jeffrey Bones helps a clown who performed at his friend’s birthday party to find some lost clothing. (Puffin Easy-to-Read series)

Cork and Fuzz: The Collectors by Dori Chaconas | When best friends Cork and Fuzz go to the pond to collect shiny stones, they happen upon a duck’s nest just as the eggs are hatching, and Fuzz, who is wearing a feather from his collection, is collected by the mother duck. (Puffin Easy-to-Read series)

The Flyer Flew!: The Invention of the Airplane by Lee Sullivan Hill | Tells the story of how Orville and Wilbur Wright designed, built, and flew the world’s first airplane. (On My Own Science series)

Frog and Toad Are Friends by Arnold Lobel | Five tales recounting the adventures of two best friends—Frog and Toad. (I Can Read series)

Jesse Owens: Running into History by Elaine Israel | Presents the life and accomplishments of Jesse Owens, an African American track star who won four gold medals at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany, and dashed Hitler’s hopes for an Aryan domination of the Games. (Time for Kids Biography series)

Katie in the Kitchen by Fran Manushkin | Katie wants to be helpful, so she starts making dinner on her own. (Katie Woo series)

Minnie and Moo: The Case of The Missing Jelly Donut by Denys Cazet | Cow friends Minnie and Moo search for a jelly donut thief who may have left behind a blue feather. (I Can Read series)

Monkeys and Dog Days by Kate Banks | When Max and Pete get a new dog, they learn that taking care of a pet is not as easy as they thought. (Monkey Reader series)

Monster Health Book: A Guide To Eating Healthy, Being Active and Feeling Great For Monsters and Kids by Edward Miller | Provides guidance for choosing the right kinds and portions of food for staying fit, and includes a discussion about getting proper rest and exercise and developing healthy habits.

Mouse and Mole, Fine Feathered Friends by Herbert Wong Yee | When spring arrives, Mole and Mouse find a unique way to bird watch. (Mouse and Mole series)

Nate the Great and the Hungry Book Club by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat | Nate and his dog Sludge help Rosamond discover who has been tearing pages out of her books. (Nate the Great Detective Stories series)

On the Go With Mr. and Mrs. Green by Keith Baker | Mr. and Mrs. Green, a loving alligator couple, practice magic tricks, bake cookies, and dream up new inventions. (Mr. & Mrs. Green series)

Small Pig by Arnold Lobel | Because the farmer’s wife insists on cleaning his mud puddle, a little pig runs away to the city where he becomes permanently stuck in what he thought was a mud puddle. (I Can Read series)

Waltur Paints Himself into a Corner and Other Stories by Barbara Gregorich | Waltur and his friends Matilda and Darwin are back in this collection of three stories that help beginning readers understand funny everyday sayings.

Why Do Snakes Hiss? And Other Questions About Snakes, Lizards and Turtles by Joan Holub | Find the answers to FAQs about reptiles and scaly-skinned creatures in this fun and fact-filled introduction for early readers. (Dial Easy-to-Read series)

Illustration by Lindsay Barrett George

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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