

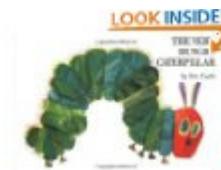
## **Baby-Preschool Booklist**



1. Baby's First Library (rpkg) [Board book]  
by [Margaret Wise Brown](#)

**Reading level:** Baby-Preschool

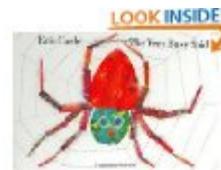
Margaret Wise Brown's beloved bedtime classics have lulled generations of children to sleep with their soothing sounds. Now, for the first time, these three classics are shrink wrapped together in a beautifully designed gift package. The gift set includes Goodnight Moon and The Runaway Bunny, with pictures by Clement Hurd, along with Big Red Barn, illustrated by Felicia Bond.



2. The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

**Reading level:** Baby-Preschool

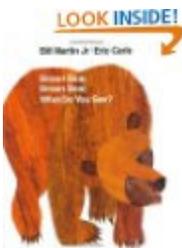
Follows the ravenous caterpillar's path as he eats his way through one apple (and the pages of the book itself) on Monday, two pears on Tuesday, three plums on Wednesday, and so on, through cherry pie and sausage--until he is really fat and has a stomachache. And no doubt you know what happens next! Kids love butterfly metamorphosis stories, and this popular favorite teaches counting and the days of the week, too.



3. The Very Busy Spider (Board Book) by Eric Carle

**Reading level:** Baby-Preschool

This colorful picture book describes a spider's day. Blown onto a farmyard fence, she starts to spin a web. The other animals ask if she wants to play, but in every case "the spider didn't answer. She was very busy spinning her web." The book is touchable: elements including the strands of web are embossed on the pages and you can follow them with your fingertips. But the best thing by far is Carle's familiar, yet still breathtaking skill as an illustrator.



4. Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?  
By [Bill Martin Jr.](#) (Author), [Eric Carle](#) (Illustrator)

**Reading level:** Ages 4-8

The gentle rhyming and gorgeous, tissue-paper collage illustrations in this classic picture book make it a dog-eared favorite on many children's bookshelves. On each page, we meet a new animal who nudges us onward to discover which creature will show up next: "Blue Horse, Blue Horse, What do you see? I see a green frog looking at me." This pattern is repeated over and over, until the pre-reader can chime in with the reader, easily predicting the next rhyme. One thing readers might not predict, however, is just what kinds of funny characters will make an appearance at the denouement! Children on the verge of reading learn best with plenty of identifiable images and rhythmic repetition.



### 5. Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear? By Bill Martin

**Reading level:** Baby-Preschool

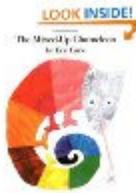
Continuing in the spirit of *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?*, their new book incorporates the same clean design and crisp text, but this time the action takes place at the zoo, where elephants, hippos, lions and such are asked what they hear--each answer leads to the animal on the next page, and culminates with a zookeeper who "hears" a pageful of multiracial children disguised as their favorite animals. Carle's characteristically inventive, jewel-toned artwork forms a seamless succession of images that fairly leap off the pages, and educator Martin, ever tuned in to what children like best, has assembled a thoroughly rowdy menagerie--including a fluting flamingo, bellowing walrus and hissing boa constrictor, to name a few--imitations of whose sounds will doubtless soon be echoing in many homes and classrooms. A visually and aurally splashy work, this is a splendid successor to *Brown Bear*



### 6. Papa, Please Get the Moon for Me (Classic Board Book) by Eric Carle

**Reading level:** Baby-Preschool

Carle, whose *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* has been extraordinarily successful, scores again with this stunning picture book, drawn in thick, brilliant brushstrokes of blues and greens and reds that dazzle the eye. Monica wants to play with the moon, but can't reach it, so she asks her father to get it for her. Ingeniously designed with several fold-out pages, the book opens out horizontally to show a very long ladder Papa fetches, opens vertically to show him climbing the ladder above a very high mountain, and unfolds into a huge spread of the full moon, where the ladder has led Papa. But the moon is too big for him to carry, so he waits while it grows smaller, until finally it is the right size to bring home to Monica. She jumps and dances and frolics with it, but it keeps shrinking, until one day it's gone. But not for long: a thin sliver soon appears in the sky, growing larger and becoming full once again. A splendid introduction to the monthly lunar cycle, this is also a wondrous work of art that will stand up to countless readings.



### 7. The Mixed-Up Chameleon by Eric Carle

**Reading level:** Baby-Preschool, ages 4-8

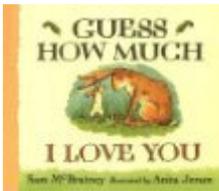
Collages in festive hues illustrate this story of a chameleon that learns to change not only his colors but his shape and his dreams as well.



### 8. From Head to Toe (Board Book) by Eric Carle

**Reading level:** Baby-Preschool

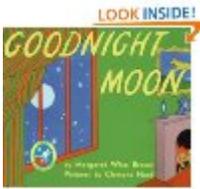
As the artist's collages emulate animal movements, children will "eagerly clap, stomp, kick and wriggle their way through these pages," says *Publisher's Weekly*.



### 9. Guess How Much I Love You by Sam McBratney

**Reading level:** Baby-Preschool

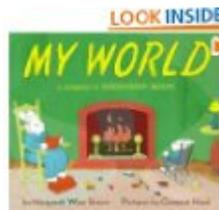
Little Nutbrown Hare wants very much to impress Big Nutbrown Hare with the enormous scale of his devotion, but ends up being the one who's impressed. Subtitled "a pop-up edition," this sturdy square edition of Sam McBratney's ever-popular *Guess How Much I Love You* is probably better described as a "slide-along edition." Some pages do include pop-ups, but they aren't the best ones; instead, most involve pull-tabs which animate the two rabbits and their surroundings. One of the most appealing scenes simply shows Little Nutbrown Hare hopping up and down. In a purely technical sense this exercise in interactive cardboard technology is well behind some of the competition, but the tale has a timeless charm and the very simplicity of the movements makes it easy for small fingers to waggle the tabs and take control of the story. (Ages 2 to 4) --Richard Farr



### 10. Goodnight Moon (Board Book) by Margaret Wise Brown

**Reading level:** Baby-Preschool

Finding all of the items mentioned throughout the book within the pictures is a good bedtime activity--a reappearing little mouse is particularly pesky. By the end of the little rabbit's goodnight poem, the story has quieted to a whisper, and the drawings have darkened with nightfall. As you turn the last page, you can expect a sleepy smile and at least a yawn or two. (Picture book)



### 11. My World (Board Book) by Margaret Wise Brown

**Reading level:** Baby-Preschool

For a small bunny, the big world can be boiled down to "My slippers. / My pajamas. / Daddy's pajamas," and "Mother's chair. / My chair. / A low chair. / A high chair. / But certainly my chair." Back in print after more than 30 years, *My World* by Margaret Wise Brown and Clement Hurd is every bit as reassuring and appealing to young children as its more famous companion, [Goodnight Moon](#). Using the same format, this tale features the rabbit family as they go through their day: brushing teeth, eating breakfast, going fishing, reading stories, and climbing into bed. Black-and-white illustrations alternate with full-color scenes depicting the ever-expanding (yet still comfortably contained) boundaries of a child's life. In one image, the young bunny, clad in blue coveralls, hammers happily on his wooden truck, while Daddy, in matching coveralls, works on his own (real) car just outside the garage. Very young fans of the classic *Goodnight Moon* will delight in recognizing the characters, illustration style, and gentle rhythmic words in this over-50-year-old picture book. For that matter, older fans will be pretty tickled, too! (Ages 2 to 6) --Emilie Coulter --This text refers to the [Hardcover](#) edition.



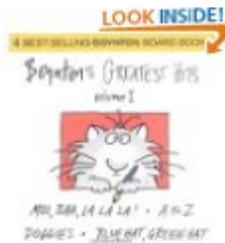
### 12. The Going to Bed Book by Sandra Boynton

**Reading level:** Baby-Preschool

For a little one who is reluctant to go to bed, sometimes a silly book is just the ticket. And when it comes to silly books, Sandra Boynton is the undisputed queen. In *The Going to Bed Book*, an ark full of animals watches the sun go down and then prepares for bed. They take a bath ("in one big tub"), find pajamas, brush their teeth, do exercises up on deck (imagine an elephant jumping rope, a moose lifting weights, and a pig doing handstands), and finally say good night.

The moon is high. The sea is deep.  
They rock  
and rock  
and rock  
to sleep.

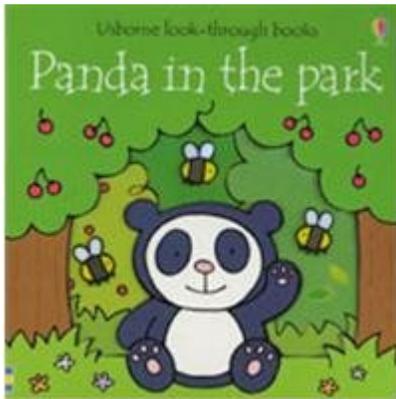
Boynton's inimitable animal characters have graced the pages of scads of picture books over the years. She has an extraordinary knack for knowing what appeals to small children: simple rhymes, goofy animals in goofy settings, and sweet, comforting stories. This book, along with her many other board-book titles ([Moo, Baa, La La La!](#), [But Not the Hippopotamus](#), and others) will surely remain a favorite. (Baby to preschool) --*Emilie Coulter*



### 13. Boynton's Greatest Hits: Volume 1 (Boynton Board Books)

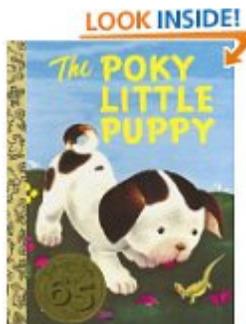
**Reading level:** Baby-Preschool

Artist Sandra Boynton has been charming adults for decades with her whimsical, animal-centric greeting cards and her droll sense of humor. When Boynton transferred her weirdly wonderful critters to board books for babies, she made publishing history. These short, hilarious books are perfectly suited to toddler tastes, with their small size, few words, cheerful colors, funny jokes, and silly animals. [Blue Hat, Green Hat](#) is all about getting dressed, and stars a very silly turkey who just doesn't get it. (Feet in the hat, pants on the head, etc.) His continuing refrain is "Oops." [Moo, Baa, LA LA LA!](#) investigates the sounds animals make, including pigs who sing. [Doggies](#) is "a counting and barking book" about the many sounds dogs can make, and [A to Z](#) frolics through the alphabet with amusing animal antics from an aardvark admiring to a zebra zigzagging. Parents love Boynton as much as kids do, and these four books in a compact boxed set will no doubt become household favorites! (Baby to age 3) --*Marcie Bovetz*



### 14. Panda in the Park (Board Book) by Anna Milbourne

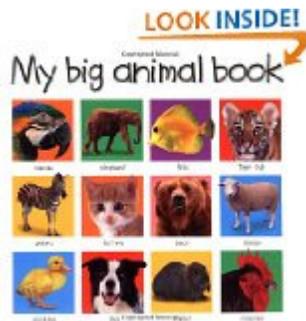
**Reading level:** Baby-Preschool



### 15. The Poky Little Puppy (Little Golden Treasures-Board Book) by Janette Sebring Lowrey and Gustaf Tenggren

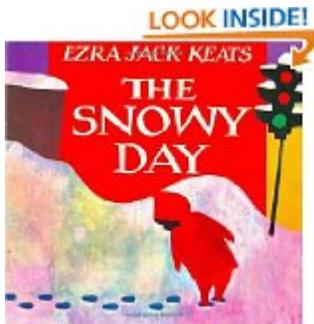
**Reading level:** Baby-Preschool

One of the original 12 Little Golden Books, *The Poky Little Puppy* has sold nearly 15 million copies since 1942, making it one of the most popular children's books of all time. Now this curious little puppy is ready to win the hearts and minds of a new generation of kids.



16. [My Big Animal Book \(Priddy Bicknell Big Ideas for Little People\)](#) by [Roger Priddy](#)

**Reading level:** Baby-Preschool

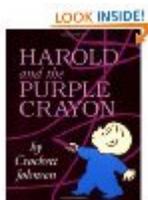


17. [The Snowy Day Board Book](#) by [Ezra Jack Keats](#)

**Reading level:** Baby-Preschool

*The Snowy Day*, a 1963 Caldecott Medal winner, is the simple tale of a boy waking up to discover that snow has fallen during the night. Keats's illustrations, using cut-outs, watercolors, and collage, are strikingly beautiful in their understated color and composition. The tranquil story mirrors the calm presence of the paintings, and both exude the silence of a freshly snow-covered landscape. The little boy celebrates the snow-draped city with a day of humble adventures--experimenting with footprints, knocking snow from a tree, creating snow angels, and trying to save a snowball for the next day. Awakening to a winter wonderland is an ageless, ever-magical experience, and one made nearly visceral by Keats's gentle tribute.

The book is notable not only for its lovely artwork and tone, but also for its importance as a trailblazer. According to *Horn Book* magazine, *The Snowy Day* was "the very first full-color picture book to feature a small black hero"--yet another reason to add this classic to your shelves. It's as unique and special as a snowflake.~amazon.com review

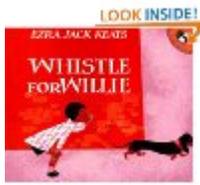


18. [Harold and the Purple Crayon](#) by Crockett Johnson

**Reading level:** ages 4-8

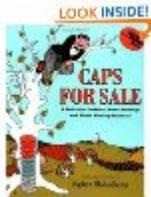
"One night, after thinking it over for some time, Harold decided to go for a walk in the moonlight." So begins this gentle story that shows just how far your imagination can take you. Armed only with an oversized purple crayon, young Harold draws himself a landscape full of beauty and excitement. But this is no hare-brained, impulsive flight of fantasy. Cherubic, round-headed Harold conducts his adventure with the utmost prudence, letting his imagination run free, but keeping his wits about him all the while. He takes the necessary purple-crayon precautions: drawing landmarks to ensure he won't get lost; sketching a boat when he finds himself in deep water; and creating a purple pie picnic when he feels the first pangs of hunger.

Crockett Johnson's understated tribute to the imagination was first published in 1955, and has been inspiring readers of all ages ever since. Harold's quiet but magical journey reminds us of the marvels the mind can create, and also gives us the wondrous sense that anything is possible. (Ages 4 to 8)  
~amazon.com review



19. Whistle for Willie by Ezra Jack Keats

**Reading level:** ages 4-8



20. Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina

**Reading level:** ages 4-8

Subtitled *A Tale of a Peddler, Some Monkeys and Their Monkey Business*, this absurd and very simple story has become a classic, selling hundreds of thousands of copies since its first publication in 1940. A peddler walks around selling caps from a tall, tottering pile on his head. Unable to sell a single cap one morning, he walks out into the countryside, sits down under a tree, checks that all the caps are in place, and falls asleep. When he wakes up, the caps are gone--and the tree is full of cap-wearing monkeys. His attempts to get the caps back generate the kind of repetitive rhythm that 3- and 4-year-olds will adore. (Preschool and older) --*Richard Farr*

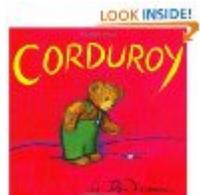


21. Blueberries for Sal by Robert McCloskey

**Reading level:** ages 4-8

Kuplink, kuplank, kuplunk go the blueberries into the pail of a little girl named Sal who--try as she might--just can't seem to pick as fast as she eats. Robert McCloskey's classic is a magical tale of the irrepressible curiosity--not to mention appetite--of youth. Sal and her mother set off in search of blueberries for the winter at the same time as a mother bear and her cub. A quiet comedy of errors ensues when the young ones wander off and absentmindedly trail the wrong mothers.

*Blueberries for Sal*--with its gentle animals, funny noises, and youthful spirit of adventure--is perfect for reading aloud. The endearing illustrations, rendered in dark, blueberry-stain blue, will leave you craving a fresh pail of your own. (Picture book) ~amazon.com review



22. Corduroy by Don Freeman

**Reading level:** baby through preschool

Have you ever dreamed of being locked in a department store at night? The endearing story of Corduroy paints a picture of the adventures that might unfold (for a teddy bear at least) in such a situation. When all the shoppers have gone home for the night, Corduroy climbs down from the shelf to look for his missing button. It's a brave new world! He accidentally gets on an elevator that he thinks *must* be a mountain and sees the furniture section that he thinks must be a palace. He tries to pull a button off the mattress, but he ends up falling off the bed and knocking over a lamp. The night watchman hears the crash, finds Corduroy, and puts him back on the shelf downstairs. The next morning, he finds that it's his lucky day! A little girl buys him with money she saved in her piggy bank and takes him home to her room. Corduroy decides that this *must* be home and that Lisa must be his friend. Youngsters will never get tired of this toy-comes-alive tale with a happy ending, so you may also want to seek out Dan Freeman's next creation, [A Pocket for Corduroy](#). (Ages 3 to 8)~amazon.com review



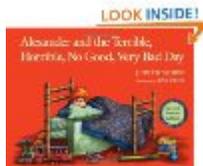
### 23. Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak

**Reading level:** ages 4-8

Where the Wild Things Are is one of those truly rare books that can be enjoyed equally by a child and a grown-up. If you disagree, then it's been too long since you've attended a wild rumpus. Max dons his wolf suit in pursuit of some mischief and gets sent to bed without supper. Fortuitously, a forest grows in his room, allowing his wild rampage to continue unimpaird. Sendak's color illustrations (perhaps his finest) are beautiful, and each turn of the page brings the discovery of a new wonder.

The wild things--with their mismatched parts and giant eyes--manage somehow to be scary-looking without ever really being scary; at times they're downright hilarious. Sendak's defiantly run-on sentences--one of his trademarks--lend the perfect touch of stream of consciousness to the tale, which floats between the land of dreams and a child's imagination.

This Sendak classic is more fun than you've ever had in a wolf suit, and it manages to reaffirm the notion that there's no place like home. ~amazon.com review



### 24. Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by

Judith Viorst

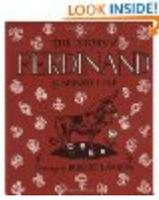
**Reading level:** ages 4-8

"I went to sleep with gum in my mouth and now there's gum in my hair and when I got out of bed this morning I tripped on the skateboard and by mistake I dropped my sweater in the sink while the water was running and I could tell it was going to be a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day."

So begin the trials and tribulations of the irascible Alexander, who has been earning the sympathy of readers since 1972. People of all ages have terrible, horrible days, and Alexander offers us the cranky commiseration we crave as well as a reminder that things may not be all that bad. As Alexander's day progresses, he faces a barrage of bummers worthy of a country-western song: getting smushed in the middle seat of the car, a dessertless lunch sack, a cavity at the dentist's office, stripeless sneakers, witnessing kissing on television, and being forced to sleep in railroad-train pajamas. He resolves several times to move to Australia.

Judith Viorst flawlessly and humorously captures a child's testy temperament, rendering Alexander sympathetic rather than whiny. Our hero's gum-styled hair and peevish countenance are artfully depicted

by Ray Cruz's illustrations. An ALA Notable Book, *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* is a great antidote to bad days everywhere, sure to put a smile on even the crabbiest of faces. (Ages 5 to 9) --This text refers to an alternate [Hardcover](#) edition. ~amazon.com review

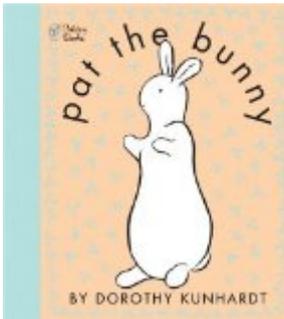


25. The Story of Ferdinand by Munro Leaf

**Reading level:** ages 4-8

What else can be said about the fabulous Ferdinand? Published more than 50 years ago (and one of the bestselling children's books of all time), this simple story of peace and contentment has withstood the test of many generations. Ferdinand is a little bull who much prefers sitting quietly under a cork tree-- just smelling the flowers--to jumping around, snorting, and butting heads with other bulls. This cow is no coward--he simply has his pacifist priorities clear. As Ferdinand grows big and strong, his temperament remains mellow, until the day he meets with the wrong end of a bee. In a show of bovine irony, the one day Ferdinand is most definitely *not* sitting quietly under the cork tree (due to a frightful sting), is the selfsame day that five men come to choose the "biggest, fastest, roughest bull" for the bullfights in Madrid.

Ferdinand's day in the arena gives readers not only an education in the historical tradition of bullfighting, but also a lesson in nonviolent tranquility. Robert Lawson's black-and-white drawings are evocative and detailed, with especially sweet renditions of Ferdinand, the serene bull hero. *The Story of Ferdinand* closes with one of the happiest endings in the history of happy endings--readers of all ages will drift off to a peaceful sleep, dreaming of sweet-smelling flowers and contented cows. ~amazon.com review



26. Pat the Bunny by Dorothy Kunhardt (a touch and feel book)

**Reading level:** baby through preschool

"Judy can pat the bunny. Now YOU pat the bunny." Sound familiar? *Pat the Bunny* is a part of childhood, as soothing as cocoa and animal crackers. Dorothy Kunhardt's interactive book for babies and toddlers was one of the first of its kind when it was published in 1940, and it has since sold over six million copies. We pat the soft fur of the bunny, play peek-a-boo, look in the mirror, and then do it all over again. (And again and again and again.) After you *Pat the Bunny* with your baby, why not *Pat the Cat* and *Pat the Dog*? These two sequels were written by Edith Kunhardt, the daughter of the author of the original book. Both use the same tried-and-true *Pat the Bunny* format: sturdy cardboard pages with eight activities that wee ones can explore, from sniffing some brownies, to squeaking a teddy bear, to unfastening Grandma's tennis shoe. The simple line drawings and pastel colors don't do much for adults, but somehow they are just right for babies. This boxed set is a fine choice for a baby gift or first birthday present, and a lifesaver on a long car trip. (Baby to preschool) --*Marcie Bovetz*