

**O F C** Office for Children

# **School Readiness**

Books for Early Childhood Professionals and Parents



Fairfax County Department of Family Services  
Fairfax County Public Library

# School Readiness

## Books for Early Childhood Professionals and Parents

These books can be used by early childhood professionals and parents as they prepare children for success in school and beyond. Many of these children's books were purchased by the Fairfax County Office for Children for the Fairfax County Public Library through a Smart Beginnings grant from the Virginia Department of Social Services and the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation. The books correspond to the “Early Learning Guidelines,” which can be read online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofc](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofc).



## Social and Emotional Development

### **Go Away, Big Green Monster!** by Ed Emberley

This features die-cut pages through which bits of a monster are revealed to help a child control nighttime fears of monsters.

### **Guess How Much I Love You** by Sam McBratney

During a bedtime game, every time Little Nutbrown Hare demonstrates how much he loves his father, Big Nutbrown Hare gently shows him that the love is returned even more.

### **Hooray for Amanda & Her Alligator!** by Mo Willems

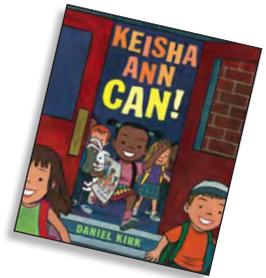
Amanda and her alligator have lots of fun together, but when Amanda's grandfather buys her a panda, Alligator must learn to make new friends.

### **I Can Do It Myself!** by Diane Adams

Emily Pearl is a big girl who insists on doing everything for herself until evening, when having someone help her get ready for bed is nice.

### **Keisha Ann Can!** by Daniel Kirk

Keisha Ann is proud of all the things she can do during her day at school.



### **Owl Babies** by Martin Waddell

Three owl babies whose mother has gone out in the night try to stay calm while she is gone.

### **The Pout-Pout Fish in the Big-Big Dark** by Deborah Diesen

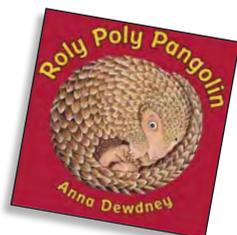
Mr. Fish feels nervous venturing deep in the sea to look for Ms. Clam's lost pearl until Miss Shimmer helps him conquer his fear of the dark.

### **Mouse was Mad** by Linda Urban

Mouse struggles to find the right way to express his anger, modeling the behavior of Hare, Bear, Hedgehog and Bobcat, only to discover that his own way may be the best way of all.

### **Roly Poly Pangolin** by Anna Dewdney

Roly Poly, a pangolin, is shy and afraid of new things until he discovers that some new experiences are not bad at all.



### **Wemberly Worried** by Kevin Henkes

A mouse named Wemberly who worries about everything, finds that she has a whole list of things to worry about when she faces the first day of nursery school.

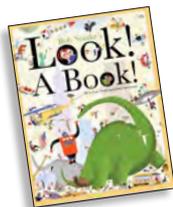
## **Approaches to Learning**

### **Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?** by Bill Martin, Jr.

Children see a variety of animals, each one a different color, and a teacher looking at them. Through repetitive text children can predict and participate as the story is read aloud.

### **Hello, Good-bye** by Arlene Alda

A collection of photographs introduces children to the concept of opposites.

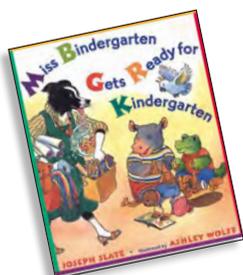


### **Look! A Book!** by Bob Staake

Easy-to-read, rhyming text invites the reader to search for items on a different theme on each page, while celebrating the wonder of a picture book.

**Look Book** by Tana Hoban

Full-color photographs invite young viewers to scrutinize and think about what they see – and do not see.



**Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten**

by Joseph Slate

This book introduces the letters of the alphabet as Miss Bindergarten and her students get ready for kindergarten.

**Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes** by Eric Litwin

Pete the cat walks around town in his white shoes. He steps in various items—strawberries, blueberries, mud, water—that change the color of his shoes.

**Round Like a Ball** by Lisa Campbell Ernst

Everyone tries to guess what is round, warm, cold, strong and fragile, until they finally realize it is the earth.

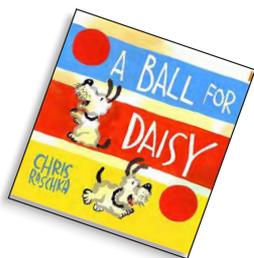
**You and Me We're Opposites** by Harriet Ziefert

Simple text reveals differences between zoo animals, from their behavior to their coloring.

## Language

**A Ball for Daisy** by Chris Raschka

This wordless picture book shows the fun a dog has with her ball and what happens when it is lost.



### **Hickory Dickory Dock** by Keith Baker

Rhythmic text expands on the Mother Goose rhyme, including a variety of animals that react as the clock strikes one through twelve.

### **Rhyming Dust Bunnies** by Jan Thomas

Three dust bunnies, Ed, Ned and Ted, demonstrate how much they love to rhyme. A fourth, Bob, ruins the rhyme when he tries to warn them of approaching danger.

### **Say Hello** by Rachel Isadora

A little girl greets people in her neighborhood in many different languages.



### **Say What?** by Angela Diterlizzi

With easy-to-rhyme text, this book explores the meaning of sounds exchanged between animal parents and their offspring.

## **Literacy**

### **Alphabet House** by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace

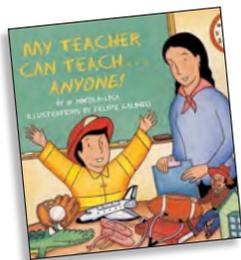
A large rabbit family lives in an alphabet house, and readers are invited to find items that begin with letters of the alphabet.

### **Cat the Cat, Who is That?** by Mo Willems

In simple, easy-to-read text, an exuberant cat introduces readers to her friends.

### **Chicken, Chicken, Duck!** By Nadia Krilanovich

This book has easy-to-read, rhythmic text about a group of farm animals, led by a tenacious duck, who play a noisy game together.



### **My Teacher Can Teach...Anyone!**

by W. Nikola-Lisa

An alphabet story in verse about a Latino boy and his remarkable teacher who can teach an astronaut how to float in space and instruct a ballet dancer how to land with grace.

### **Shout! Shout it Out!** by Denise Fleming

Mouse invites the reader to shout out what he or she knows as they review numbers, letters and easy words.

### **The Turn-Around, Upside-Down Alphabet Book**

by Lisa Campbell Ernst

An alphabet book in which each letter becomes three different objects as the book is turned different directions.

## **Mathematics**

### **10 Minutes till Bedtime** by Peggy Rathman

A boy's hamster leads an increasingly large group of hamsters on a tour of the boy's house, while his father counts down the minutes to bedtime.

### **Actual Size** by Steve Jenkins

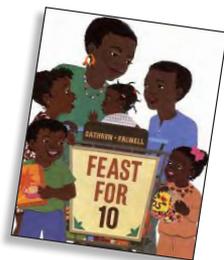
This book discusses and gives examples of the size and weight of various animals and parts of animals.

### **Each Orange Had 8 Slices** by Paul Giganti, Jr.

Readers are invited to multiply, add and count their way through the math puzzles hiding in the world around them.

### **Feast for 10** by Cathryn Falwell

Numbers from one to ten are used to tell how members of family shop and work together to prepare a meal.



### **How Many Baby Pandas?** by Sandra Markle

Basic counting skills combine with panda facts to introduce readers to numbers and cuddly cubs, from the moment they are born to the time they start climbing trees.

### **Pattern Bugs** by Trudy Harris

The concept of patterns is introduced with both graphics and text.

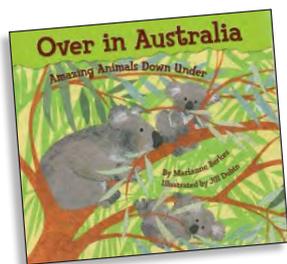
### **Round is a Mooncake** by Roseanne Thong

As a little girl discovers things round, square and rectangular, she is reminded of her Chinese American culture.

### **Shapes, Shapes, Shapes** by Tana Hoban

A wordless book presents photographs from everyday life providing examples of various geometric shapes.

## Science



### **Over in Australia: Amazing Animals Down Under** by Marianne Berkes

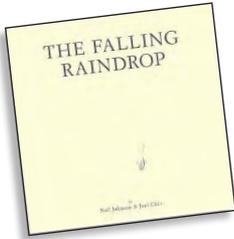
A counting book in rhyme presents various Australian animals and their offspring, from a mother crocodile and her “little hatchling one” to a huge father emu and his “little chicks ten.”

**Animal Babies in Grasslands** by Jennifer Schofield

This book offers a simple introduction to the baby and adult animals that live in grassland areas.

**A Butterfly is Patient** by Dianna Hutts Aston

Colorful illustrations and simple text describe the many characteristics of butterflies.



**The Falling Raindrop** by Neil Johnson

A newborn raindrop falls happily from the sky, until he begins to worry about what might happen next.

**It's a Good Thing There Are Insects**

by Allan Fowler

This book identifies the characteristics of insects and describes some of their useful activities and products.

**It's Snowing!** by Gail Gibbons

This introduces readers to snow and discusses topics such as different types of snowstorms, regions where snow falls, and how to prepare when a snowstorm approaches.

**Shadow** by Suzy Lee

A little girl uses her imagination and a light bulb to go on an adventure in a dark attic.



**So That's How the Moon Changes Shape!**

by Allan Fowler

This offers a simple explanation of the moon, and why it changes shape throughout the month.

**We Planted a Tree** by Diane Muldrow

Simple text reveals the benefits of planting a single tree, both to those who see it grow and to the world as a whole.

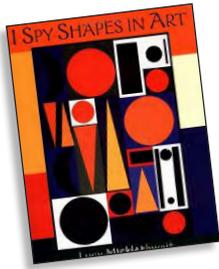
## Creative Arts

**Baby Loves** by William Lach

This story presents a simple rhyme about a baby's activities, such as drinking, napping and hugging. The illustrations are paintings, prints and pastels by American Impressionist Mary Cassatt.

**How to Take Your Grandmother to the Museum** by Lois Wyse

A young girl takes her grandmother on an outing to the natural history museum.



**I Spy Shapes in Art** by Lucy Micklethwait

Presents objects with the shape of a heart, a triangle, a square and other shapes through paintings by such artists as Magritte, Escher, and Matisse.

**Perfect Square** by Michael Hall

A perfect square that is perfectly happy is torn into pieces, punched with holes, crumpled and otherwise changed, but finds in each transformation that it can be something new.

**The Very Busy Spider** by Eric Carle

The farm animals try to divert a busy little spider from spinning her web, but she persists and produces a thing of both beauty and usefulness.

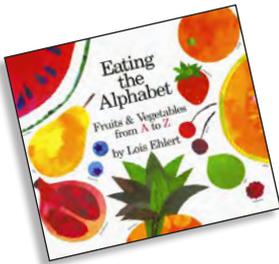
## Health and Physical Development

### **The Bear Went Over the Mountain** by Iza Trapani

In this expanded version of the traditional song, a bear goes exploring near his home in the mountains, using all five senses throughout the four seasons.

### **Dancing Feet** by Lindsay Craig

Easy-to-read, rhyming text depicts different animals dancing.



### **Eating the Alphabet: Fruits and Vegetables From A to Z** by Lois Ehlert

An alphabetical tour of the world of fruits and vegetables, from apricot and artichoke to yam and zucchini.

### **Growing Vegetable Soup** by Lois Ehlert

Together, a father and child share the joys of planting, watering and watching seeds grow.

### **From Head to Toe** by Eric Carle

Encourages the reader to exercise by following the movements of various animals.

### **My Five Senses** by Margaret Miller

Five children show how their five senses work in daily life.

### **Showdown at the Food Pyramid** by Rex Barron

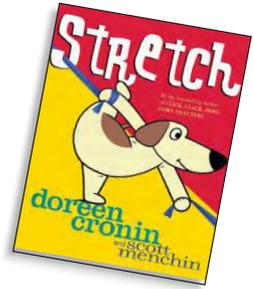
When snack foods take over the food pyramid and make it collapse, members of the various food groups have to work together using the “Great Food Guide” to rebuild it.

**Sleep is for Everyone** by Paul Showers

The book discusses the importance of sleep and what happens to our brains and bodies during slumber.

**Stretch** by Doreen Cronin

Rhyming text describes the many ways to stretch.



**Toddlerobics Animal Fun** by Zita Newcome

A group of toddlers has fun imitating a penguin, a crab, a duck, an elephant and other animals while they exercise.

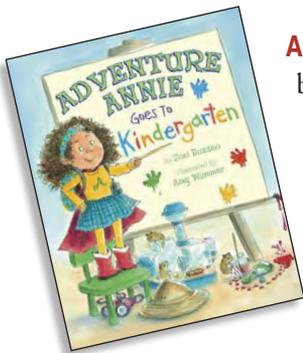
**You Are a Lion! And Other Fun Yoga Poses** by Taeun Yoo

Children pretend to be many different animals as they do various yoga poses.

**Your Insides** by Joanna Cole

This book introduces young children to their own bones, muscles, joints, digestive tracts, lungs, hearts and nervous systems.

## Kindergarten Readiness



**Adventure Annie Goes to Kindergarten**

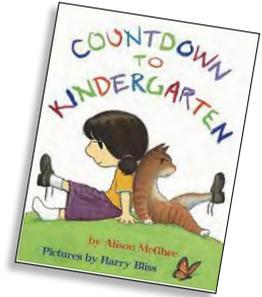
by Tony Buzzeo

Even though there are rules to follow, a little girl who loves adventure has an exciting first day of kindergarten.

### **Countdown to Kindergarten**

by Alison McGhee

Ten days before the start of kindergarten, a preschooler cannot tie her shoes by herself and fears the worst.



### **Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!**

by Nancy L. Carlson

Even though Henry is looking forward to going to kindergarten, he is not sure about staying once he first gets there.

### **On the Way to Kindergarten** by Virginia L. Kroll

A mother describes the increasing accomplishments of her five-year-old, from crying and sleeping, to riding a tricycle, then preparing for school.

### **A Place Called Kindergarten** by Jessica Harper

Wondering why their friend Tommy has not come to the barn at his usual time, the animals become alarmed when the dog tells them that he has gone to a place called “Kindergarten.”

### **Who Will Go to School Today?** by Karl Ruhmann

Sam decides to send his toy monkey Timbo to kindergarten in his place, but after telling Timbo about his school friends and school routine, he realizes he wants to go himself.

## **The Importance of Reading Aloud**

Reading aloud with children from infancy is the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for success in reading. When children are read to they can increase their vocabulary, and improve comprehension skills and success in beginning reading.

But, reading aloud to children is about more than helping them learn the words. Children generate conversation about what is read to them. They talk about the story and what it means to them. It is at this point that the reader can engage the child in connecting the story to their own lives.

Lesley Mandel Morrow and Linda B. Gambrell, *Using Children's Literature in Preschool* (International Reading Association, 2004).

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