

10 Books to Read to your Child Before Kindergarten

Excerpt from Parent Magazine

3 One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish by Dr. Seuss

You can't go wrong with any Seuss book, but the singsong verses, real and imagined beasts (like a seven-hump Wump), and simpler story line in the classic tale will have kids roaring. It's also chock-full of "sigh words" for 4- and 5-year olds and colors for younger kids.

3 One Family by George Shannon and Blanca Gomez

Featuring multicultural families of many sizes, this counting book clearly introduces the concept that "one" can mean a single item or a collection of things. A page reads, "One is eight. One box of crayons. One row of ducks. One family."

3 Monsters Love School by Mike Austin

Bright colors and cherry monsters sweep kids up in the excitement of starting school. But the book also touches on children's fears and apprehension, like when monster Blue asks, "What if I get hungry?" and "What if no one likes me?"

3 Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak

Wild child Max sent to bed without supper after threatening to eat his mom. But her next move puts this book on the list because of the message of unconditional parental love-even when you misbehave-is reassuring to kids.

3 Where the Sidewalk Eds by Shel Silverstein

No one will appreciate those nonsensical poems more than preschoolers. One silly rhyme: "Teddy said it was a hat/So I put it on/Now dad is saying/Where the heck's the toilet plunger gone?"

3 Bully by Laura Vaccaro Seeger

This 21-word story to the crux of teasing and forgiveness: A bull calls a chicken, well, "Chicken!" Tells a turtle he's a slowpoke. But when a goat retorts that the bull is a bully, he apologizes, and the animals play together.

3 Llama Llama Time to Share by Anna Dewdney

One of the most compelling stories about sharing, this book explores what happens when a llama won't let the new neighbor girl play with his toy.

3 Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin Jr.

In this fun rhyming of A to Z climbing up and falling from the coconut tree, kids learn their letters without even realizing it. Bonus: The front and back inside covers colorfully depict the upper- and lowercase alphabet so you can work on letter recognition with your child after the story.

3 Don't let the Pigeon Stay Up Late! By Mo Willems

From "I'm not even tired!" to "I'll go to bed early tomorrow night instead!" the stalling tactics of a cute pigeon who claims he isn't sleepy sounds familiar. This book will help your child laugh at his own behavior-just when you need a bedtime routine the most.

Summer Preparation for Kindergarten