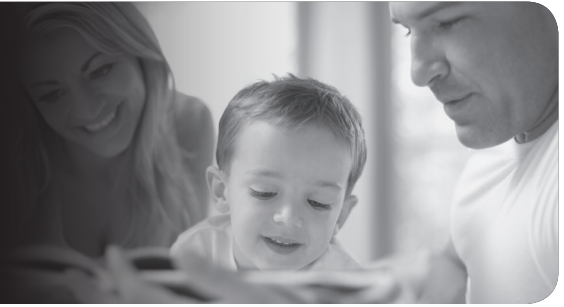


# Top Ten Picture Books to Read with Your Child



1. **Big Red Barn**, by Margaret Wise Brown  
Brown, M.W. (1956). Big red barn.  
New York: Young Scott.

*This is a good book because:*

- ✦ It can expand your child's interest in familiar farm animals
- ✦ It uses appealing rhymes that help children to hear the same sounds in different words
- ✦ Its illustrations are appealing and fun

*Activities related to this book:*

- ✦ Even toddlers love to make the sounds of animals as they listen to the story or play with animal toys.
- ✦ Visit a farm or petting zoo to introduce your child to farm animals.
- ✦ Make paper bag puppets of farm animals with your child for pretend play.

2. **Goodnight Moon**, by Margaret Wise Brown  
Brown, M.W. (1947). Goodnight moon.  
New York: Harper & Brothers.

*This is a good book because:*

- ✦ This classic has been loved for three generations because of its simple, repetitive phrases and soothing tempo.
- ✦ It is a wonderful way to calm your child as you prepare him/her for bedtime.
- ✦ Your child can soon learn to tell the story back to you.

*Activities related to this book:*

- ✦ Walk around the child's room saying "Good night" to all of her favorite things.
- ✦ Help your child to remember his friends and family by saying "Good night" to them in his imagination.
- ✦ Fold a few pieces of paper together to make a homemade "book" in which your child can draw pictures of people and objects he wants to say "Good night" to.

3. **The Snowy Day**, by: Ezra Jack Keats  
Keats, E. J. (1976). The snowy day.  
New York: Penguin Group.

*This is a good book because:*

- ✦ It stimulates your child's imagination of pretend play
- ✦ It uses descriptive words
- ✦ The pictures are colorful and simple

*Activities related to this book:*

- ✦ Make small, medium and large snowballs.
- ✦ Make predictions on how long it will take for each size snow ball to melt.
- ✦ Each time you read The Snowy Day, leave more of the "reading" or retelling to the child. Give open-ended prompts on each page. For example, ask: What is happening in this picture?

4. **From Head to Toe**, by: Eric Carle  
Carle, E. (1997). From head to toe.  
New York: HarpersCollins Publishers.

*This is a good book because:*

- ✦ It includes repetitive phrases
- ✦ The pictures are simple
- ✦ It includes action words with labeling body parts

*Activities related to this book:*

- ✦ Act out animal movements.
- ✦ Play "Simon Says" with body parts and actions.
- ✦ Draw your own animal. Talk about what the animal is doing.

5. **The Very Hungry Caterpillar**, by: Eric Carle  
Carle, E. (1981). The very hungry caterpillar.  
New York: Penguin Group.

*This is a good book because:*

- ✦ Sequencing
- ✦ Predicting what will be eaten next
- ✦ Nutrition and talk about which foods are healthier than others in the book

*Activities related to this book:*

- ✦ Count the number of items the caterpillar eats
- ✦ Learning days of the week
- ✦ Identifying colors and names of food items

6. **Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed**, by: Eileen Christelow, Christelow, E. (1989). Five little monkeys jumping on the bed. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company.

*This is a good book because:*

- ✦ Repetitive and predictable language helps children learn and recite words
- ✦ Rhyming words
- ✦ Reading expressions of monkey faces, teaching 'feeling' words

*Activities related to this book:*

- ✦ Counting monkeys
- ✦ Basic concepts of 'on' and 'off'
- ✦ Beginning subtraction

7. **We're Going on a Bear Hunt**, by: Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury (1989) Rosen, B. & Oxenbury, H. (1989). We're going on a bear hunt. New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books

*This is a good book because:*

- ✦ It encourages interactive movement experiences throughout the story.
- ✦ It is repetitive and allows children to participate by repeating patterned lines.
- ✦ Your child can learn spatial concepts (over, under, through).

*Activities related to this book:*

- ✦ Invite your child to role play the bear hunt.
- ✦ Make a bear to use for practicing spatial concepts.
- ✦ Create a story about going on a hunt.

8. **Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?** by: Bill Martin Jr., Martin, B. (1992). Brown bear, brown bear, what do you see? New York: Henry Holt and Company.

*This is a good book because:*

- ✦ Repetitive and predictable language helps children learn to read and recite words in a book
- ✦ Eye catching illustrations of animals using bold colors and textured art allow for small children to become engaged with the text
- ✦ Opportunity for readers to make connections with book ("I saw a walrus at the zoo")

*Activities related to this book:*

- ✦ While reading with your child, act like the animals in the book through movement and sound.
- ✦ Identify colors and animals in the book by asking your child to point to them.
- ✦ Use toy animals, puppets and/or pictures of animals to act out the story.

9. **Good Night Gorilla**, by: Peggy Rathmann Rathmann, P. (1994) Good night gorilla. New York: Putnam.

*This is a good book because:*

- ✦ Limited amount of text allows reader to tell the story in their own words.
- ✦ Book includes familiar animals and setting (zoo).
- ✦ Illustrations include familiar objects (toys in the animal cages) and the reader will have fun finding the little mouse with a banana throughout the book.

*Activities related to this book:*

- ✦ Act out the story with stuffed animals and/or toys.
- ✦ Make a banana snack to enjoy together.
- ✦ Visit the zoo together. Which animals from the book do you see at the zoo?

10. **Are You My Mother?**, by P.D. Eastman Eastman, P.D. (1960) Are you my mother? New York: Random House Children's Books.

*This is a good book because:*

- ✦ It introduces the concept of asking and answering questions.
- ✦ The simple story catches a young reader's attention using familiar animals and objects and using silly questions.
- ✦ Repetition of text encourages beginning stages of reading.

*Activities related to this book:*

- ✦ Play a memory card game matching baby animals with mother animals.
- ✦ Identify adult and baby names of animals (for example, cow and calf).
- ✦ Take a walk outside to find bird nests and different types of birds.

Talk.  
Read.  
Succeed.✦