



Doorstep Library

Early years book ideas

For new babies



Black and White books

Babies see in black and white for the first months of life, so high contrast books like these help them to see shapes. Bold lines and patterns will hold the attention of even the youngest babies!

Books with Faces

Babies love to look at your face and the way your expressions change, and they will start to copy you after a while! Books which have faces help encourage your child's curiosity, as they can see round shapes best. The books often come with a mirror so that your baby can see themselves too!

Sensory books



Touch and Feel

Babies love sensory books with different textures that they can touch. These books help them learn about the world around them by feeling parts of the story, as well as seeing and hearing it. Having things to touch can help babies focus better, and increase their motor skills.

Noisy Books

Similar to touch and feel books, noisy books help children develop their listening skills. Sensory books like these can help language development too, as babies learn new sounds and the words that relate to them. They are also lots of fun – we would recommend animal or transport noises as a great place to start!

Songs and flaps

Books with Flaps

Children love to guess what is under the flap in these interactive books, and as well as being a fun game, it also helps your child learn to make predictions and engage with new words. A quick warning though – if you give these books to very little ones they will soon get destroyed! Try to find books with cloth, or sturdy card flaps which should last longer.

Books with songs

These books have songs and nursery rhymes which you can sing along with your child. Often they will also include actions which you can act out, so that your child is not only learning new words and sounds, but is moving around too. Remember – you don't need a book to sing or rhyme with your child – but these ones can help if you forget the words!



For learning words

Vocabulary books

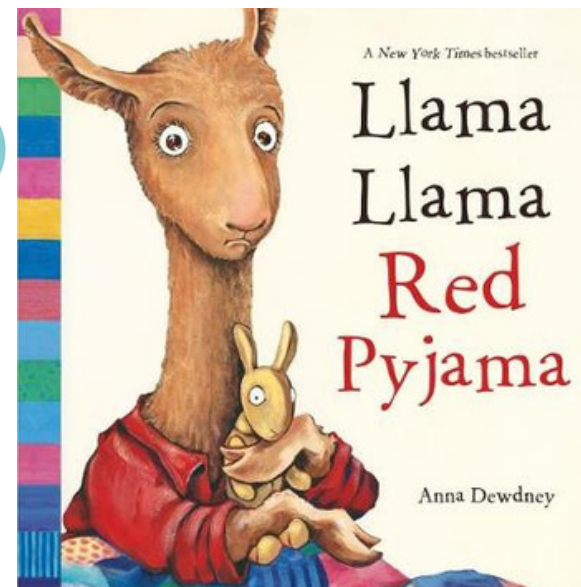
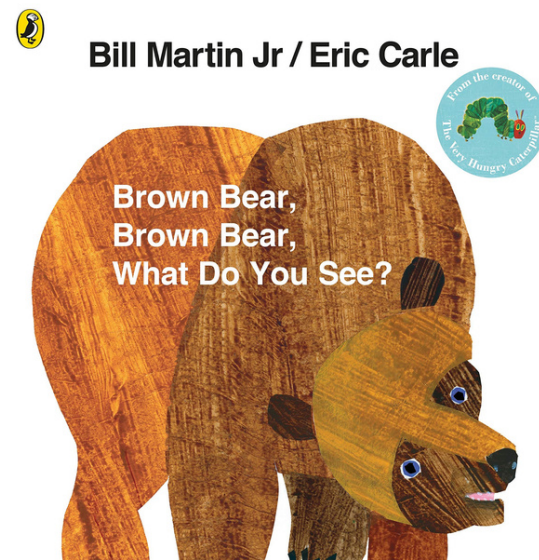
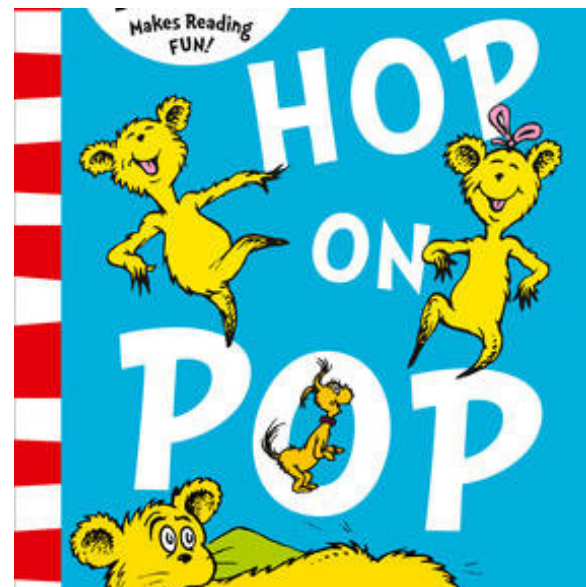
These books are best for children around 18 months old who have started to speak and are learning lots of new words! Children learn to associate the images with words, and the bright colours and themes keep them interested. They are a brilliant way to help with your child's speech development – children will love to try and repeat the words you say!

Books with Questions

Books with questions help your child with problem-solving and listening skills. It can also make reading more fun as children are engaged in thinking of the answers to your questions! You can use questions in any of the books you have by asking your child to point out things like objects, colours or shapes. This can help their vocabulary and speech development too, as they learn to have conversations with you!

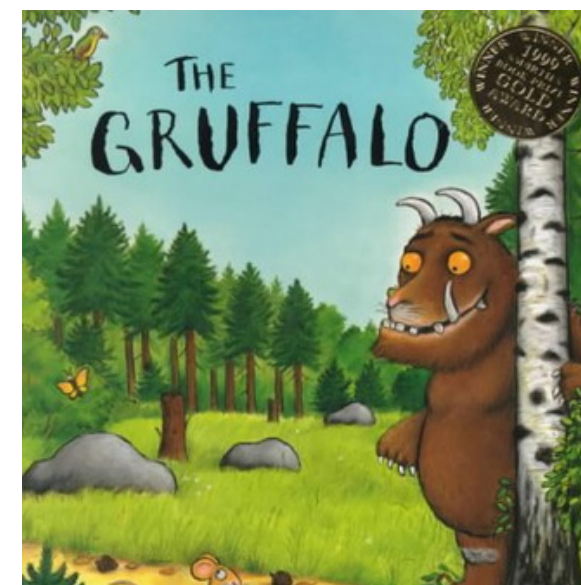
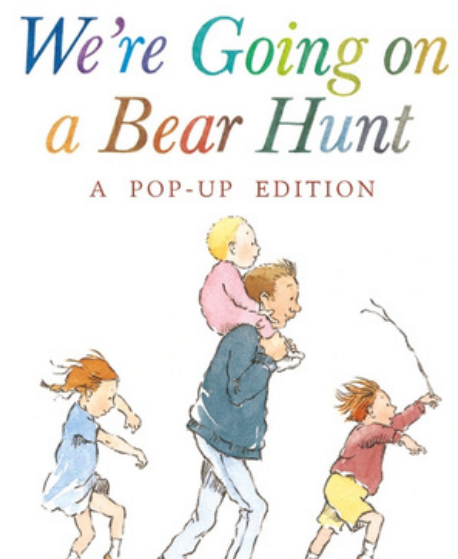


Books before school



Rhyming Books

These books have simple, repetitive sentences which help children follow the rhythm of a book and learn new words. Children will love to guess the end of sentences as a way to engage interactively. There are still lots of bright pictures, but at this stage, children are learning to focus on listening to a longer story, and increasing their vocabulary.



Picture Books

Children love being read to from picture books, and as they reach the age of four, they can develop 'pre-reading' skills. Although children aren't actually reading at this stage, they may be able to memorise some words or phrases from their favourite books, or learn specific letters from the alphabet. By engaging with books before school, children have lots of experience of seeing words and letters which will help when they learn to read.

For new babies

Black and White: Amazing Baby - Emma Dodd

Black and White – Tana Hoban

Hello You – Stephen Barker

Baby Faces – Kate Merritt & Amy Pixton

Who? A Celebration of Babies – Robie Harris & Natascha Rosenberg

Look at You! – Starbright Books

Sensory Books

Baby Touch and Feel: Mealtime – DK Books

That's not my Dinosaur – Fiona Watts & Rachel Wells

Baby's very first touchy-feely Playbook – Fiona Watts and Stella Baggott

Noisy Things that Go – Libby Walden

Baby's very first noisy Nursey Rhymes – Fiona Watts and Stella Baggott

Peppa Pig: Stomp and Roar – Neville Baker and Mark Astley

Songs and flaps

Where's Mrs Kangaroo – Ingela P Arrhenius

Dear Zoo – Rod Campbell

Playtime with Ted – Sophy Henn

The Drum – Ken Wilson-Max

The Wheels on the Bus – Annie Kubler

Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes – Annie Kubler

Learning Words

My First Words: Let's Get Talking – DK Books

ABC: My First Touch and Feel – Petit Collage

Numbers, Colours, Shapes – Roger Priddy

Are you there Little Tiger? – Sam Taplin & Essi Kimpimaki

Where's Spot? – Eric Hill

Who's Fallen Asleep? – Sam Taplin and Stephen Barker

Books before School

Hop on Pop – Dr Seuss

Brown Bear, Brown Bear – Bill Marten Jnr & Eric Carle

Llama Llama, Red Pyjama – Anne Dewdney

Ten Little Dinosaurs – Mike Brownlow & Simon Rickerty

We're Going on a Bear Hunt – Michael Rosen & Helen Oxenbury

The Gruffalo – Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler