

Books are FUN

The robust structure of a board book format allows very young children to hold, fondle and learn for themselves from the shaped pages of thick card, showing a celebration of colour and shape. Following on from these very early book experiences are a selection of recommended story books which offer toddlers and pre-school children a set of words which never vary and pictures that are static. Hearing these several times helps small children to familiarize themselves with more complex material that is entertaining and attractive.

Max's Bath

ISBN: 978-1776570003

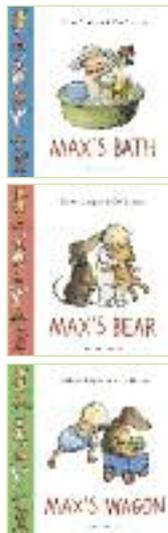
Max's Bear

ISBN: 978-1776570027

Max's Wagon

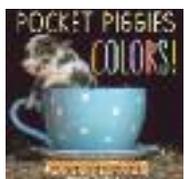
ISBN: 978-1776570010
Written by Barbro Lindgren
Illustrated by Eva Eriksson
Gecko £6.99 each

These charming examples encourage babies to focus on familiar objects and everyday experiences. There are very few words, with gently coloured, eye-catching images and novelties that have great baby appeal, but will intrigue the adult who shares them too.



Pocket Piggies: Colours!

Photographs by Richard Austin Workman £4.99 ISBN: 978-0761181460



Just twenty words in total work wonders in this charming, portable and durable fun book. Exciting shades invite babies to gurgle and point, and try to turn the pages. They will also attempt to imitate and talk to the friendly piglet on each double page spread.

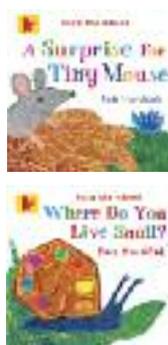
A Surprise For Tiny Mouse

ISBN: 978-1406355451

Where Do You Live Snail?

ISBN: 978-1406355468
Written and illustrated by Petr Horáček
Walker £5.99 each

Petr Horáček has created delightful, truly interactive and very short stories to be shared with a young child. These books, in the *Turn the Wheel* series, will help them to discover and connect with the world in a broad context as well as nurturing an awareness of fun and story through words and pictures. In *A Surprise for Tiny Mouse* the readers get to know the character of Mouse by feeling through the holes in the pages. The drama builds, in both titles, to a lovely climax, providing unexpected delight.



Kipper's Little Friends

Written and illustrated by Mick Inkpen
Hodder £11.99 ISBN: 978-1444918182

A charming new book from Mick Inkpen is always a treat. Celebrating twenty-five years in print, this tale has Kipper researching on his computer



into conventional baby names. His best friend, Arnold, has a new toy baby owl and they want to give him a name. Gentle humour pervades all the big, colourful illustrations and the language is simple but surprisingly resonant. A true classic!

Snow

Written and illustrated by Carol Thompson
Child's Play £3.99 ISBN: 978-1846436819

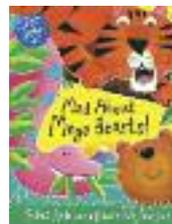
With its focus clearly on babies and early language, this book will always associate reading with the voice of someone who really loves them. There is a picture of a happy child on each page clearly having loads of fun and it is pure joy to share their simple pleasure at being out-of-doors. There is a wealth of sights and sounds to discover and enjoy.



Mad About Mega Beasts!

Written by Giles Andreae Illustrated by David Wojtowycz
Orchard (eB) £11.99 ISBN: 978-1408329351

This explosion of noisy, rhyming great-beastie fun needs a big picture-book presentation! Each animal has its own page so the book is good for dipping in and out, and for choosing and comparing favourites.



Very brightly coloured illustrations, with bold and easily identified creatures that are full of personality, make this book one to get excited about. Everyone wants to join in a celebration to show off each beast's special characteristic.

My First Doctor's Bag

ISBN: 978-1406349009

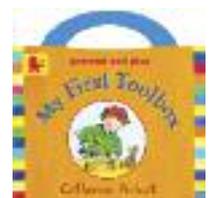
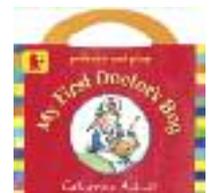
My First Toolbox

ISBN: 978-1406349016

Created by Catherine Anholt Walker £5.99 each

These *Pretend and Play* books each have a shaped handle on every page to encourage co-ordination when young children reach out to grab it. There are six different scenes, with pages of familiar objects to stimulate good language and communication skills. In *My First Doctor's Bag* children can be seen sticking plasters on a damaged giraffe whilst a teddy has cream rubbed into his tummy.

Appropriately dressed, on each double spread in *My First Toolbox*, a boy and girl are shown busily building, or hammering, or gardening, or decorating.



Following the Tractor

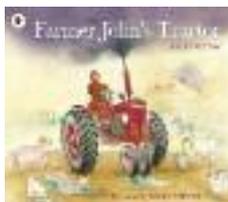
Written and illustrated by Susan Steggall
Frances Lincoln £11.99 ISBN: 978-1847804891

Appealing to a young child's mechanical side - they all love tractors - the detailed illustrations show how vital a tractor is for the farmer throughout the whole year. Rhyme, rhythm and repetition please the ear, making this title perfect for reading aloud, whilst the clear, colourful pictures include many other farm vehicles, and easily identifiable farm animals, to spot.

Farmer John's Tractor

Written by Sally Sutton Illustrated by Robyn Belton
Walker £6.99 ISBN: 978-1406351873

Not just for machinery enthusiasts! This warm and gorgeously illustrated story is perfect for a quiet cuddle by the fire. Farmer John's tractor is locked in the shed, rusty yet trusty and orangey-red... until the rain comes and the river rises. Will it be able to save the day?

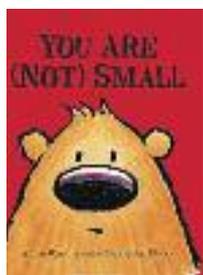
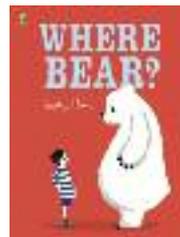


by the lifelike drawings which reflect the author/illustrator's scientific background.

Where Bear?

Written by Sophy Henn
Puffin (eB) £11.99 ISBN: 978-0723288916

This satisfying story begins "Once there was a bear cub who lived with a little boy ...". As the pages are turned, the bear cub grows up into an adult bear. The boy realises that he can't live in the house any more so a search begins for a suitable home for a bear. A toy shop? A zoo? A wood? A cave? All are considered and rejected – but, finally, a lovely solution is agreed. The pictures are simply drawn on matt pages, in sombre shades, but they beautifully convey real affection between the boy and the bear.



You Are (Not) Small

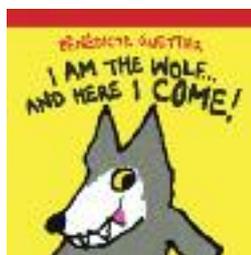
Written by Anna Kang Illustrated by Christopher Weyant
Hodder (eB) £11.99 ISBN: 978-1444918304

Two furry creatures cannot agree on who is small and who is big, until a couple of surprise guests show up, settling it once and for all. Lots of white space on the pages allows the reader to appreciate the differences in this amusing tale about size – it all depends on who is standing next to you!

I Am the Wolf ... And Here I Come!

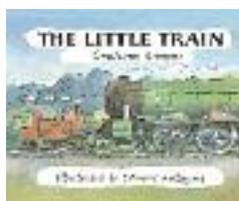
Written and illustrated by Bénédicte Guettier
Gecko £7.99 ISBN: 978-1877579424

This is a sturdy, fun boardbook with extra thick pages and a strong cloth binding that will withstand many presentations. Bold illustrations – reminiscent of Lucy Cousins' stylised black outlines and bright colours – together with direct, simple text, guarantee it will become a real favourite with young children (but, not for quiet, sensitive little ones who are often nervous and shy). The wolf is slowly getting dressed; from his underpants to an overcoat ... parents will anticipate the delight of the last page.



The Little Train

Written by Graham Greene Illustrated by Edward Ardizzone
Jonathan Cape (R) £14.99 ISBN: 978-0857551597

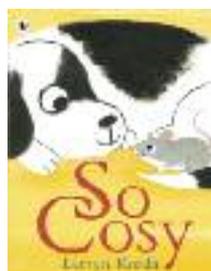


What a lovely classic tale this is! Little Train is bored with life in Little Snoring and decides to run away to see the world. Of course, he soon realises that the outside world is a big, dark, frightening place and that he was much happier in Little Snoring. The problem is how to get back there? The book has a classical layout of text and picture – the same as when the book was first published in the 1970s – and it remains a lovely story both in its simple theme and lovely presentation. This is a complete storytelling experience for everyone, but especially for 'train mad' young children.

Space

Created by Annie Ross Written by Susan Hayes
Illustrated by Simon Abbott
Red Shed £9.99 ISBN: 978-1405271653

Part of the *Read It • Build It* series, this small paperback book and six graduated boxes will amuse young pre-schoolers who are enthusiastic about space. By stacking the boxes they are able to build exciting scenes, beginning with a rocket and ending with the solar system. Stimulating and imaginative!



So Cosy

Written and illustrated by Lerryn Korda
Walker £11.99 ISBN: 978-1406337099

Pastel coloured pages imbue this simple story with a joyful energy that transfers itself to the reader, making this a jolly read. Goose wanders in, being the first of a succession of animals to comment on the cosiness of Dog's bed. Readers are enabled to identify which creature is next as,

one by one, a menagerie parades through the book. The inevitable collapse is hilarious as everyone joins in with the sneeze. The characters fill the pages and are easily focused on, whilst the text will help children to develop an ear for language.

Animal ABC

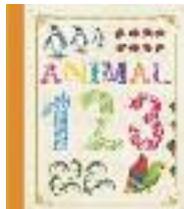
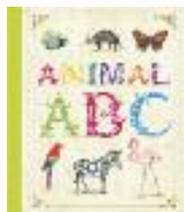
ISBN: 978-1781716823

Animal 123

ISBN: 978-1781716830

Written and illustrated by Camilla Bédoyère
QED £7.99 each

These two books, in the *First Concept* series, will provide hours of pleasure as a toddler becomes aware of the concepts concerning letters and numbers. Over a hundred animals – from aardvark to zander – are illustrated in colour. Learning the alphabet can be great fun! Birds, beasts, fish and fowl abound and young children will be fascinated



Follow The Firefly

Written & illustrated by Bernardo Cavalho
Book Island £5.99 ISBN: 978-0994109828

Looking closely at pictures is an important part of everyone's life. This exciting, two way, wordless picture book invites readers to imagine the story, to think aloud about what they feel is happening on the pages. A circular gathering of easily recognized animals are introduced on the first page. The firefly sits proudly opposite them. Over the page everyone is encouraged to join in a comic, absurd and fantastical adventure. Each page is full of small stories as children travel along the forest floor – rich in natural details – then up into the treetops with their new friends. Bold foliage gives way to a colourful urban setting, strikingly atmospheric, as firefly pushes on to the last page. But, joy of joys, it's not the end. In this book we can reverse and immediately find other stories lines as we move from back to front. Brilliantly engaging.

Reviewed by members of the Birmingham Children's Book Group