

Books are FUN

Chosen and reviewed by Sinead and Martin Kromer from the Carousel Editorial Team.



Technicolour Treasure Hunt

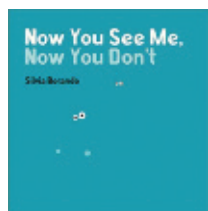
Devised and illustrated by Nan Na Hvass and Sofie Hannibal Wide Eyed £9.99 ISBN: 978-1847807441

This sturdy board book will help very young children begin to count to ten, to recognise the colours of the rainbow and to name common, and uncommon, items. There are seven double-page spreads, each devoted to a different colour, and filled with a huge array of various animals, reptiles, insects, flowers, fruits, vegetables, fish, undersea creatures and other items from the natural world. There are coloured tabs down the side of the book to allow children to choose which colour they want to explore that day. Children will spend a long time poring over and investigating each delightfully illustrated spread and then strive to count how many of each item is depicted, whilst learning to name and recognise them. Learning made easy and fun.

Cat's Colours

Written and illustrated by Airlie Anderson Child's Play £5.99 ISBN: 978-1846437601

It is a grey, cloudy, rainy day and so Cat decides to brighten things up by setting off to collect some colours. She manages to collect seven different colours, including green from the leaves, red from the roses, blue from the water, purple from the butterfly, orange from the setting sun, black from the night sky and yellow from the moon. She then goes off to hide in the undergrowth and there we find her later, suckling seven new little kittens, each with fur of a different colour. Can you remember from where each little kitten got its colour? A gentle, undemanding story, with minimal large-font text and clear uncluttered illustrations, that young children will enjoy whilst learning to recognise and name their colours. Enchanting.

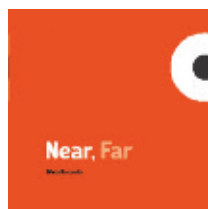


Now You See Me, Now You Don't

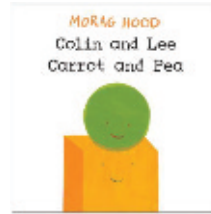
ISBN: 978-1406364217

Near, Far

ISBN: 978-1406363180 Both devised and illustrated by Silvia Borando Walker £8.99 each



Two very unusual, wordless, picture books which need careful study and scrutiny. In *Now You See Me, Now You Don't* the same set of animals are present on each of the twelve double-page spreads. They all appear on the first page in the snow, but it is difficult to find the four baby chicks on the yellow sand, the crocodile in the grass and the hippo in the water. But, if you look very, very carefully, you will find them all. And, you will need to try extra hard to find the chameleon who is able to hide almost everywhere. *Near, Far* is a very clever introduction to perspective and how changing distance and scale can make objects look very different. Each creature is shown over three double-page spreads – a crocodile, a tiny bird, a snake, a rabbit and many more. At first, you view each creature very close up and as you zoom out and move away you have to guess what it is – original and ingenious. The lack of text, together with the clean, bold, block colour illustrations in both these visually uncomplicated, uncluttered books will help the reader to focus and see things anew.



Colin and Lee, Carrot and Pea

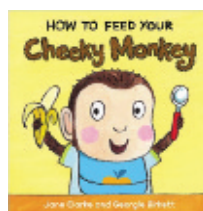
Written and illustrated by Morag Hood Two Hoots £11.99 ISBN: 978-1509808946

This is the tender, warm-hearted story of what would appear to be a very unlikely friendship. Lee is a pea with lots of pea-friends and one special friend, Colin, who is not a pea. Colin is too tall and very orange. He cannot roll or bounce like a pea and he is not good at playing hide and seek with all the peas. However, being long and straight, he makes an excellent tower, a fantastic bridge and a great slide. Although they have little in common, Lee and Colin are the very best of friends - a celebration of individuality in friendship. Very distinct green and orange illustrations, with bold, black, minimal text on clean white pages – stunning in its simplicity. This quirky, funny, little story will become a firm favourite and will be asked for again and again.

Let's Play

Written and illustrated by Hervé Tullet Chronicle £9.99 ISBN: 978-1452154770

It may appear to be a simple, boring yellow dot, but, look again. It is a dot that is full of energy, vitality and vigour, eager to set out on an exciting adventure, but needs the reader's help to press it, guide it and move it along the thin black line. Up and down, round and round, curling and wriggling, through the forest and the dark, dark tunnel, turning, flipping, flying, and even disappearing at times, for over sixty glossy white pages. You cannot simply read this book, you have to interact with it, you have to play with it, you have to go for the ride. Go on, give it a whirl and have some fun.



How to Feed Your Cheeky Monkey

ISBN: 978-1782953975

How to Brush Your Teeth with Snappy Croc

ISBN: 978-1782953951

Written by Jane Clarke and illustrated by Georgie Birkett Red Fox £5.99 each



Both of these delightful board books will help to bring fun and amusement to an important part of each child's daily routine. *How to Feed Your Cheeky Monkey* outlines in rhyme how, with patience and understanding, the cheeky monkey's mealtime in her highchair can be enjoyable, and can end with a feeling of contentment and happiness, and a full tummy. In *How to Brush Your Teeth with Snappy Croc* the task which children sometimes try to avoid is made entertaining. We learn why it is so important to brush your teeth regularly and carefully, whether you are a snappy croc, a dragon with fangs, or a little child. Both amusing titles tell a light-hearted story, to which young children will be able to relate, and which will encourage them to establish positive, healthy routines. In the same series, *How to Bath Your Little Dinosaur* and *How to Tuck in Your Sleepy Lion* were reviewed in Issue 61.

Reviewed by Beth Buxton, who has worked in bookshops for several years and now works as a Learning Support Assistant in a primary school.

It's a Little Baby

Written by Julia Donaldson Illustrated by Rebecca Cobb
Macmillan £6.99 ISBN: 978-1447251811

From the author of *The Gruffalo*, this is a lovely, simple, lift-the-flap, board book aimed at the very young. It has engaging illustrations and is interactive with sturdy pages and flaps which should stand up to even the most enthusiastic of babies. Babies and young children will love joining in with the actions - peeping, pointing, waving, clapping and dancing - and will have lots of fun learning the song. This book will help to support any child with language and communication skills and will help encourage movement.



share, but Hare is being selfish. Whilst Bear is elsewhere, Hare decides it is a good time to steal some honey from the beehive because he won't have to share it with Bear. However, after accidentally disturbing an angry swarm of bees, it is the kind and gentle Bear who looks after Hare, making him realise sharing his honey is the right thing to do. A lovely story, in a board book format with minimal text and beautiful, vivid illustrations, which will help teach an important lesson to young children.

Dozy Bear and the Secret of Sleep

Written by Katie Blackburn
Illustrated by Richard Smythe
Faber & Faber £6.99 ISBN: 978-0571330195



Getting your child to go to bed and sleep calmly is often a daily battle for parents but this book is designed to help. The relaxing words and gentle illustrations will enable you to tenderly read to your child and soothe them as they relax in their bed. Dozy Bear wants to uncover the secret of falling asleep as it doesn't seem to come as easily to him as it does to the other animals. But, as the story goes on and he takes advice from his family, he realises he simply needs to relax his body bit by bit and take regular, calming breaths so that he can fall into a restful sleep. A lovely book to share with your child at bedtime.

Skip to the Loo, My Darling!

Written by Sally Lloyd-Jones Illustrated by Anita Jeram
Walker £11.99 ISBN: 978-1406324655



This is not just another book about using the potty, it is a fun and engaging story, with rhyme and rhythm, which will be very appealing to young children. The story follows many characters, such as Bunny, Kangaroo, Ballerina Elephant in a tutu, and a big, fat monster, on

their journey to the Potty Party. At the end of the book, Bunny asks who is missing and, by using the mirror on the final page, the child can recognise that they need to start sitting on the potty so that they too can join in with the fun of the party. Although it can be an arduous task, this book will make potty-training much more fun for both parents and children.

And Then...

Written and illustrated by Alborozo
Child's Play £5.99 ISBN: 978-1846436956



An endearing story about the ups and downs of having a baby brother, told through the eyes of his big sister. The childish language used means there is limited punctuation and it is fast-paced, but this just adds to its charm.

This is not the usual new baby book about getting things ready and bringing a new baby home from the hospital. Instead, it is a story that looks at the reality of having a new sibling and how the older child can feel fed up with all the crying and frustrated at the lack of attention, not to mention the smells that come with a new born. The story ends with the little girl understanding the need to take care of her little baby brother and relishing the idea of helping her parents - even embracing his unique scent.

Doctor

ISBN: 978-1784931469



Astronaut

ISBN: 978-1784931506



Teacher

ISBN: 978-1784931483



Firefighter

ISBN: 978-1784931452



Vet

ISBN: 9781784931476



All written by Lucy Cuthew and illustrated by Ando Twin
QED £9.99 each

The Busy People series of books uses bright, colourful illustrations and simple, engaging stories to introduce different jobs to young children. Through the characters of Mike, the Vet, Frank, the Firefighter, Miss Betts, the Teacher, Jenny, Chen and Kim, the Astronauts and Miranda, the Doctor, children can get a peek into the lives of those adults that help us and care for us, with every day holding a new challenge. At the back of each book is a 'Next Steps' section to stimulate additional discussion and vocabulary development. Further information about each character is provided, along with the type of equipment they use and the colleagues that work alongside them. With young schoolchildren often investigating the topic of 'People Who Help Us', these books will also be a useful aid for educators and with hardback covers they will be durable enough for use in the classroom as well as at home.

Mine!

Written and illustrated by Emily Gravett
Two Hoots £5.99 ISBN: 978-1447273974

Mine! is a simple story of two loveable characters playing together. Hare, like many small children, initially struggles to share his prized possessions without appreciating how this will make Bear feel. When they find a beautiful flower, a colourful balloon or a delicious ice cream, Bear expects to

