



Really Feely Farm

Designed and written by Polly Appleton
Dorling Kindersley £5.99 ISBN: 978-0241268056

A fun, little, touch-and-feel board book about creatures of the farmyard. Young pre-school children will be delighted as they experience the soft patches, bumpy patterns and scratchy glitter throughout this

twelve-page book. They will enjoy the feathery chicken, the woolly sheep, the pig with the squishy snout, the fluffy duckling and the little calf with the short, soft hair. The simple, uncluttered text together with the bright tactile illustrations make this title one that they will want to share time and again. Any child who enjoys this title will also enjoy *Really Feely Baby Animals*.

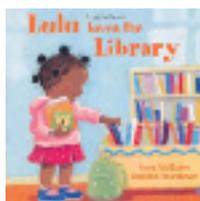
Pairs! in the garden

Written by Smriti Prasad-Halls

Illustrated by Lorna Scobie

Frances Lincoln £6.99 ISBN: 978-1847808837

This wonderfully attractive board book, with all its very busy pages filled with brightly-coloured insects and plants, will provide endless fun for any small child. A delightful book to share. Each of the six double-page spreads invites you to find a variety of garden-themed matching pairs hidden under seven flaps - "Lift the flaps and find the pairs." But you may realise that, with seven flaps, there must also be an odd-one-out to identify. These matching pairs include bees, snails, grasshoppers, caterpillars, beetles and butterflies - creatures that children will probably find in their own gardens or in the park. Not so much a reading book, as there is only minimal rhyming text, more an activity book which is ideal for involving young children in looking carefully, turn-taking and counting. Look out for the companion title of *Pairs! underwater*, with sea creatures and plants to match, identify and count.



Lulu Loves the Library

Written by Anna McQuinn

Illustrated by Rosalind Beardshaw

Alanna £4.99 ISBN: 978-0955199875

This very detailed account of a young child's visit to the library is positive, gentle and charming. Lulu loves going to the library every week with her

Mummy. Told from the point of view of the young child, the reader can join Lulu as she wakes, very enthusiastically, on library day, share her enjoyment as she packs the books she borrowed previously and her library card and walks to the library. There she enjoys storytime. But, best of all, is choosing the new books for Mummy to read with her at bedtime. This simple and attractive board book is ideal for little hands and wonderful for sharing too. The colours of the rich illustrations are soft and warm, and the minimal text is undemanding and clear. Deceptively simple, this little book is a wonderful celebration of family life and the importance of sharing books with very young children. It is so good to find a book which depicts libraries and librarians in a positive light.

ABC: Early Learning at the Museum

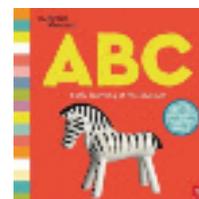
Designed by The British Museum

Nosy Crow £6.99 ISBN: 978-0857638168

This is a simple alphabet board book, showing an object for each of the letters of the alphabet, one letter on each page, which will fascinate both

younger and older children, each at their own level.

If you are too busy to visit the museum then this book could prove very useful. The format of the text is the same for each letter, for example, "Ww is for wave" and the unique, unusual, somewhat quirky objects all belong to the British Museum collection. The object depicted for the letter K is a king chess piece, carved from ivory in Scandinavia almost a thousand years ago. For the letter Q it is a wooden statuette of Queen Victoria carved in Nigeria in the 19th century. Definitely an alphabet book with a difference. Children who enjoy this book when young, will, when older, be excited by the QR code at the back which will help them discover lots more information about the twenty-six different objects. Also at the back of the book is an index of all the letters complete with tiny illustrations of all the different objects. Captivating.



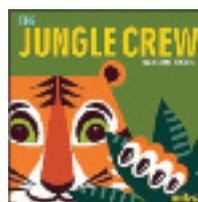
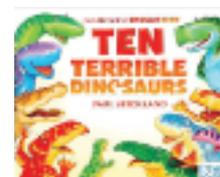
Ten Terrible Dinosaurs

Written and illustrated by Paul Stickland

Macmillan (R) £6.99

ISBN: 978-1509835522

This fantastic counting book was first published in 1997, but is now being republished in a new edition. Paul Stickland took all those wonderful dinosaur characters from, perhaps his most famous title, *Dinosaur Roar!*, now generally recognised as a classic, and included them in this bold and colourful counting book. The colours in all the dinosaurs are so bright and vivid that they almost jump off the page. Children will love joining in with the repetitive, rhyming text as they count the dinosaurs down from ten to one. At the end of the book the climax is a gigantic ROAR. This is bound to be any little child's favourite part and they will want to read the book over and over again just so that they can frighten everyone else in the house.



The Jungle Crew

ISBN: 978-1908985828



The Safari Set

ISBN: 978-1908985835



The Polar Pack

ISBN: 978-1908985842

Written and illustrated by Madeleine Rogers
Button each £4.99

These little, twenty-four-page board books will inform young children about differing environments around the world and the creatures that live there. In *The Jungle Crew* the creatures that live in the rainforests are mentioned, such as tigers, macaws and tree frogs. In *The Safari Set* animals such as lions, giraffes and zebras that live on the savannah plains are included. Creatures that live in the cold Arctic and/or Antarctic, such as penguins, polar bears, reindeer and walrus are detailed in *The Polar Pack*. The beautiful, rhythmic, rhyming text combine with

and Toddlers

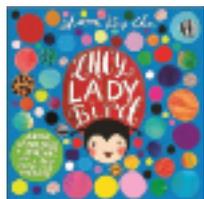
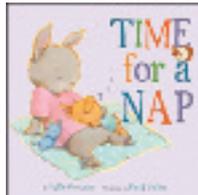
Thanks to those staff, parents and children at Helmdon Acorn Preschool, near Brackley in Northants who helped in reviewing some of the titles in this section.

the bold, colourful, atmospheric illustrations to make three books that children will really enjoy, whilst learning about their world at a level they can understand. Slightly older children will enjoy the snippets of factual details included on the inside of the back cover – information about each of the creatures mentioned as well as their respective environments.

Time for a Nap

Written by Phillis Gershator Illustrated by David Walker
Sterling £8.99 ISBN: 978-1454919810

Every day of the week is a busy day for cute, cuddly, little bunny – places to go, people to see and things to do - so busy that, every day, the little toddler needs a nap. Often, with so much to see and do, tired, crotchety bunny does not want to go to sleep, but, little bunny always succumbs to tiredness, either in the buggy, on the sofa, in the bed, on the blanket in the garden, or in the armchair, complete with cuddly toy. The fun, rhyming text, which appears in a variety of different places on each page, works very well with the gentle, pastel illustrations to create a calm, restful book, perfect for bedtime – and naptime. Children will be able to identify with the main protagonist, as the text and the illustrations give no indication of their name, their gender or their age and all the daily undertakings are the commonplace activities that most little ones will encounter. Delightful.



Lucy Ladybird

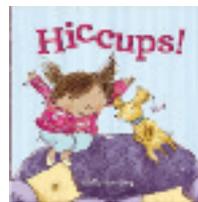
Written and illustrated by Sharon King-Chai
Templar £6.99 ISBN: 978-1783703920

This is a lovely book which tells the tale of a ladybird who is rejected by her ladybird friends because she does not have any spots. She travels through each season finding four different friends, including Carla Caterpillar and Fred Frog, who help by each giving her one of their spots. In a large fold-out surprise, as the story ends, all the other ladybirds befriend Lucy, wanting to be like her and have multi-coloured spots themselves. This story sends a clear message to the child - that it is good to be unique and differences should be welcomed and celebrated. Young children will love the front cover with its array of spots of all different colours and textures and intrigued throughout as they count all the spots and identify the colours of all the ladybirds. Children will touch each spot, perhaps expecting them all to be textured because the illustration very cleverly give the impression that they are. One to read again and again.

Be Brave Little Penguin

Written by Giles Andreae Illustrated by Guy Parker-Rees
Orchard £12.99 ISBN: 978-1408338377

A gentle story about a little penguin called Pip-Pip who needs some encouragement to enter the water. He would love to join in with all the other penguins, diving, swimming and splashing, but he is frightened of the water. He believes it to be too cold, too dark, too deep, and full of monsters that will eat him up. Some of the other penguins make fun of him and he becomes sad and lonely. Will he ever be brave enough to overcome his fear and dive in? Children will enjoy the rhyming text as well as looking at all the bright, colourful, vibrant illustrations of all the cute, funny penguins jumping, dancing and sleeping. A poignant story about having the confidence and self-belief to face your fears and how giving a little encouragement can be one of the kindest things to do.



Hiccups!

Written and illustrated by Holly Sterling
Frances Lincoln £6.99 ISBN: 978-1847806758

A wonderfully illustrated book about a little girl called Ruby and her puppy dog, Oscar, who gets hiccups. Ruby, who clearly loves her little puppy, tries everything to help stop Oscar's hiccups, but to no avail. Finally, she uses the age-old trick of surprising him - with her cat costume. The brightly coloured, energetic illustrations, which bring the story to life, are emphasised by pencil lines to, cleverly and effectively, create movement. Young readers will enjoy the dinosaur which appears on several pages, helping to make a story based on a little girl just as appealing to boys. A delightful tale which allows the reader to act out the drama of having hiccups, much to any child's amusement.

Hoot & Honk Just Can't Sleep

Written and illustrated by Leslie Helakoski
Sterling £12.99 ISBN: 978-1454921257

When the storm blows and rumbles, the grasses sway, the trees bend and the eggs tumble, getting all mixed up in the confusion. Mummy Owl and Mummy Gosling scoop up the eggs and take them back to their nests. When the eggs hatch, Hoot, a little chick cannot understand why his *apparent* siblings eat bugs and seeds and why they sleep during the night. When wandering during the night he comes across his real siblings in the grass and then Mummy Owl comes to the rescue, taking them all back to the nest. In the owls' nest another little chick, Honk, hatches and cannot understand why his *apparent* siblings eat little animals with fur and bones and why they go to sleep during the day. When wandering during the day he comes across his real siblings swimming on the pond and then Mummy Gosling comes to the rescue, taking them all back to the nest. Rhyming text, which is kept to a minimum making every word significant, carries you along, as the very large, often double-page, uncluttered illustrations draw the reader into the story. A very pleasing, enchanting tale which toddlers will really enjoy, whilst learning about nocturnal and diurnal birds together with their eating habits.



Let's Find Fred

Written and illustrated by Steven Lenton
Scholastic £6.99 ISBN 978-1407166117

Children will giggle even before they have opened the first page of this book, as the novelty front cover has a pull tab which enables Fred's eyes to move left and right. The story is easy to read and the plot easy to follow, with plenty of animals for a child to identify and a great use of vivid colour in the graphic illustrations. On each page, we have to find Fred after he escapes from the zoo and starts his own adventure – at the market, wandering through a maze, at a funfair. The zookeeper is following close behind but, Fred, the panda, finally makes it to a riotous party. Open the last double-page spread and see the party in full-swing on the spectacular fold-out. Children and adults will return to this book over and over again, each time finding new things within the detailed intricate illustrations. There are details such as Goldilocks having a picnic with the three bears and a monkey playing with a Rubik's Cube, clever puns such as 'Panda of the Opera' and 'Star Paws', images of pandas everywhere, the faces of several famous celebrities, and a white butterfly on every page.