



### Amazing

Written and illustrated by Steve Antony  
 Hodder £12.99 ISBN: 978-1444944709

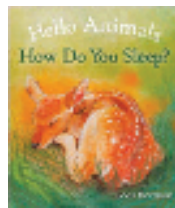
This exuberant picture book will attract young readers immediately with its brilliant cover illustration which depicts a row of children on bikes, led by a boy in a

wheelchair zooming ahead of his friends with his pet dragon perched on his shiny lighting-streak helmet. It is a compelling image of inclusivity, diversity and sheer fun. This positivity continues throughout a book in which subtle messages about inclusion are incidental to the depiction of the friendship and love between a boy and his pet dragon and the fun they have together. The illustrations are bold with eye-catching close-ups, action-packed panels, cartoon-style sequences and huge, dramatic speech bubbles, all designed to keep a young child's attention engaged. The text is clear and short, there is plenty of action and humour and the child-friendly presentation together with the message that everyone is amazing in their own way make this a delightful and heart-warming book for families to share.

### Hello Animals, How Do You Sleep?

Written and illustrated by Loes Botman  
 Floris Books £5.99 ISBN: 978-1782505518

This simple, beautifully illustrated board book is perfect for bedtime reading to the very youngest children as it asks different animals "How Do You Sleep?" Each page answers the title question by showing an animal fast asleep in various comfortable positions from "Tucked in my tail" or "Cosy on cushions" to "Deep in dens". The gentle, pastel illustrations by Dutch illustrator Loes Botman are bright, warm and utterly reassuring as each curled up animal seems to glow with light. Children will be able to mimic the animals' sleeping positions by curling up like a mouse or burrowing in their den like a bear as they get ready to go to sleep themselves. A very welcome addition to the *Hello Animals* series of board books.



### Dinosaurs

Written and illustrated by Jane Foster  
 Templar £6.99 each  
 ISBN: 978-1787413634



### Pets

ISBN: 978-1787413627

These latest titles in the range of board books by illustrator and designer Jane Foster display her characteristic use of bold outline, bright colour and pattern. The result is two books on subjects very popular with young children, dinosaurs and pets, which are attractive, eye-catching and effectively simple in their appeal. The background colours are bright and deep and the patterns on each page add interest and do not detract from the clear font. Each double page has a black-outlined, boldly coloured and shiny illustration of one dinosaur or pet, with a single name, "Triceratops", "rabbit", "dog", written opposite. The images of each creature are very clear and tactile and will have babies and young toddlers stretching out to touch the pages of these sturdy and attractive board books.



### Kahlo's Koalas

Written and illustrated by Grace Helmer  
 Michael O'Mara Books £7.99  
 ISBN: 978-1910552889

This is certainly a counting book with a difference. The illustrator has painted an assortment of animals in the styles of various famous artists, simultaneously encouraging numeracy and providing an early introduction to art appreciation. Moving from "1 Picasso Panda" to "10 Monet Mice", via Matisse Monkeys, Kandinsky Kangaroos, Warhol Warthogs and many more, this original and entertaining book works on many levels. Young children will be drawn to the bright colours, patterns and movement of the illustrations. They will enjoy counting the animals and listening to the alliterative text, while adults will be intrigued and amused by the illustrator's ability to use other artist's styles in such a clever and humorous way. This versatile book could be used as a beautifully illustrated 1-10, a way to encourage a child's own drawing or an introduction to art. Child-friendly information on each artist is given at the end. This is a book to pore over, learn from and enjoy.

### Aalfred and Aalbert

Written and illustrated by Morag Hood  
 Two Hoots £11.99 ISBN: 978-1509842940

From its tactile cover to its happy ever after ending this tale of love, aardvarks, broccoli and a small blue bird is a gentle delight. One of the aardvarks sleeps all day, the other all night, and the series of amusing mishaps that finally brings them together will entertain child and adult readers alike. There are plenty of opportunities to spot quirky details and discuss such everyday topics as day and night, sleep, food, colours, homes and friendship. This picture book is full of charm and wit. The use of visual and verbal humour, bright colours and bold fonts to depict the lovable exploits of two endearing aardvarks and a persistent bird will leave young children and their carers with smiles on their faces.



### The Perfect Sofa



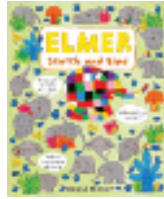
Written and illustrated by Fifi Kuo  
 Boxer Books £11.99 ISBN: 978-1910716410

When Panda and Penguin's old sofa seems beyond repair, they set off on a shopping trip to buy a new one. Parents reading this colourful, witty picture book with their toddlers will identify with the potential stresses of this situation as the pair discover that finding a sofa is easier said than done. Double page spreads depict the duo trying out one sofa after another. The text is minimal but carefully chosen and cleverly drawn so that the shape of the letters matches the adjectives used. Young readers will be able to follow the story easily from the expressions and body language of the characters while learning new adjectives along the way. The sofas are brilliantly illustrated in a combination of watercolour and crayon with eye-catching use of colour, texture and pattern set off by expansive white backgrounds. This perfect picture book is a delight with plenty of opportunities for discussion on making choices, likes and dislikes, favourites, feelings and even recycling.

## Elmer Search and Find

Written and illustrated by David McKee  
Andersen £9.99 ISBN: 978-1783447893

Young fans of Elmer the Patchwork Elephant will love this fun activity book with every double page providing a search and find adventure packed with David McKee's detailed illustrations. Each spread depicts a different habitat with a group of Elmer's friends and challenges for sharp-eyed toddlers, "Can you count twenty ladybirds?", "Can you find the spotty leopard?". Children are encouraged to look closely, to spot tiny details, to search, count and match. The illustrations are bursting with warmth and liveliness and give the impression that David McKee had as much fun drawing as his young hide-and-seek players will have in searching through every busy scene. There is an Elmer-coloured bird to find on each page and an appealing "superhero elephant" to add to the fun. Most importantly, there are answers at the end of the book. Children will hone their observational, language and counting skills whilst enhancing their knowledge of animals, birds, insects, habitats, weather, colours and patterns. This exuberant, interactive book should provide hours of enjoyment for toddlers and their families.



and easy for small hands to lift and the increasing number of holes on each flap will draw a child's eye to the tantalising glimpses of the creatures beneath. The range of creatures chosen is fascinating and unusual. This attractive and well-designed board book will give young children plenty of fun as they learn to count and explore the natural world.

## Sloth Slept On

Written and illustrated by Frann Preston-Gannon  
Pavilion £6.99 ISBN: 978-1843654254



This board book version of a picture book, first published in 2014, presents a humorous mix of story and facts, as a group of inquisitive children set out to discover what the strange creature that

has suddenly appeared in their garden is and where it has come from. The book is sturdy with watercolour illustrations that stand out clearly against the white background. The text is small, so parents and carers will need to read the story to young children, but there are plenty of visual clues and details for toddlers to spot in the illustrations and the use of shape and expression to depict character is very effective. The sloth itself, blissfully asleep throughout, is completely endearing and young animal lovers will enjoy listening to all the fascinating sloth facts. The imaginative depictions of the sloth as an astronaut, a pirate and a knight are very funny. At the end is a twist that will add to the enjoyment of parents and toddlers sharing the story.

## Jungle

Written and illustrated by Jane Ormes  
Nosy Crow £7.99 ISBN: 978-1788003544

Described as "A fun lift-the-flap book", this bright, appealing board book delivers exactly that. Each double page depicts a different jungle-dwelling animal family, with the

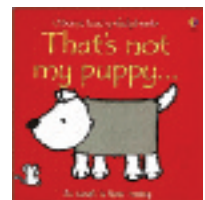
various names for mother and father animals given, "a daddy tiger is called a tiger", "a mummy tiger is called a tigress". Each has a flap to lift to reveal the babies and find out what they are called. The illustrations are bright and bold, using screen-printed artwork, simple shapes, clear patterns and an eye-catching neon orange colour to seize the attention of babies and young toddlers. The animals stare out of the pages with appealing expressions. The flaps are shiny and easy to open and there is the bonus of an early introduction to collective nouns on the final spread. Other titles in the *Animal Families* series include *Safari*, *Farm* and *Forest* and this latest addition provides a simple and satisfying introduction to jungle animals.



## That's not my puppy

Written by Fiona Watt Illustrated by Rachel Wells  
Usborne £6.99 ISBN: 978-1474959063

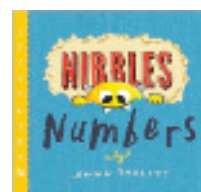
Happy 20th birthday to Usborne touchy-feely books, as this original title is re-issued to celebrate twenty years of a series that now has over fifty titles, has sold millions of copies around the world and has brought a great deal of pleasure and early learning to babies. This special edition of *That's not my puppy* has gold foiled edges and sparkly gold letters, stars and anniversary balloons on the cover. As with all books in this series, it is small, chunky and satisfyingly interactive with bright illustrations, simple, repetitive text and tactile patches for little fingers to touch and stroke. Young babies always reach out for these well-designed board books and twenty years of encouraging early learning, language development, sharing and fun is something to celebrate.



## Counting 123

Written by Violet Peto Illustrated by Liza Lewis  
Dorling Kindersley £7.99 ISBN: 978-0241347553

From the egg-shaped cut outs on the cover, to the final double page spread, with brightly coloured numbers topped by vertical rows of creatures that hatch from eggs, this "Flip Flap Find!" book will entice young children to interact and learn. Each double page presents a different habitat with an adult creature, whether bird, reptile or insect, and an egg with the question "What will my baby be?". Children are given clues, "I have pink webbed feet", "I have big sharp teeth", and are encouraged to peek through holes and lift flaps to discover the newly hatched babies, counting as they go. The illustrations mix photographic, collage and paint techniques to eye-catching effect. The flaps are large



## Nibbles Numbers

Written and illustrated by Emma Yarlett  
Little Tiger £7.99 ISBN: 978-1848699212

Nibbles, the book-eating monster, tries out his teeth by munching his way through this entertaining book of numbers. Young readers and their families will know they are in for a treat when

they see Nibbles peeking out of the big, chewed hole on the front cover. The monster is released from his cage by lifting a flap on the first page. Off he goes, munching every number, cleverly matching the number of chewed holes on each page to the right number, until he escapes right through the back cover. Each double page has a bright, clear background and a big white number to spot, footprints to follow, holes to poke fingers through, and the irrepressibly cheeky little monster on every page. This is a brilliantly designed, funny and interactive board book with a witty, rhyming text and plenty of opportunities to practice counting. Ideal for families to enjoy together.