

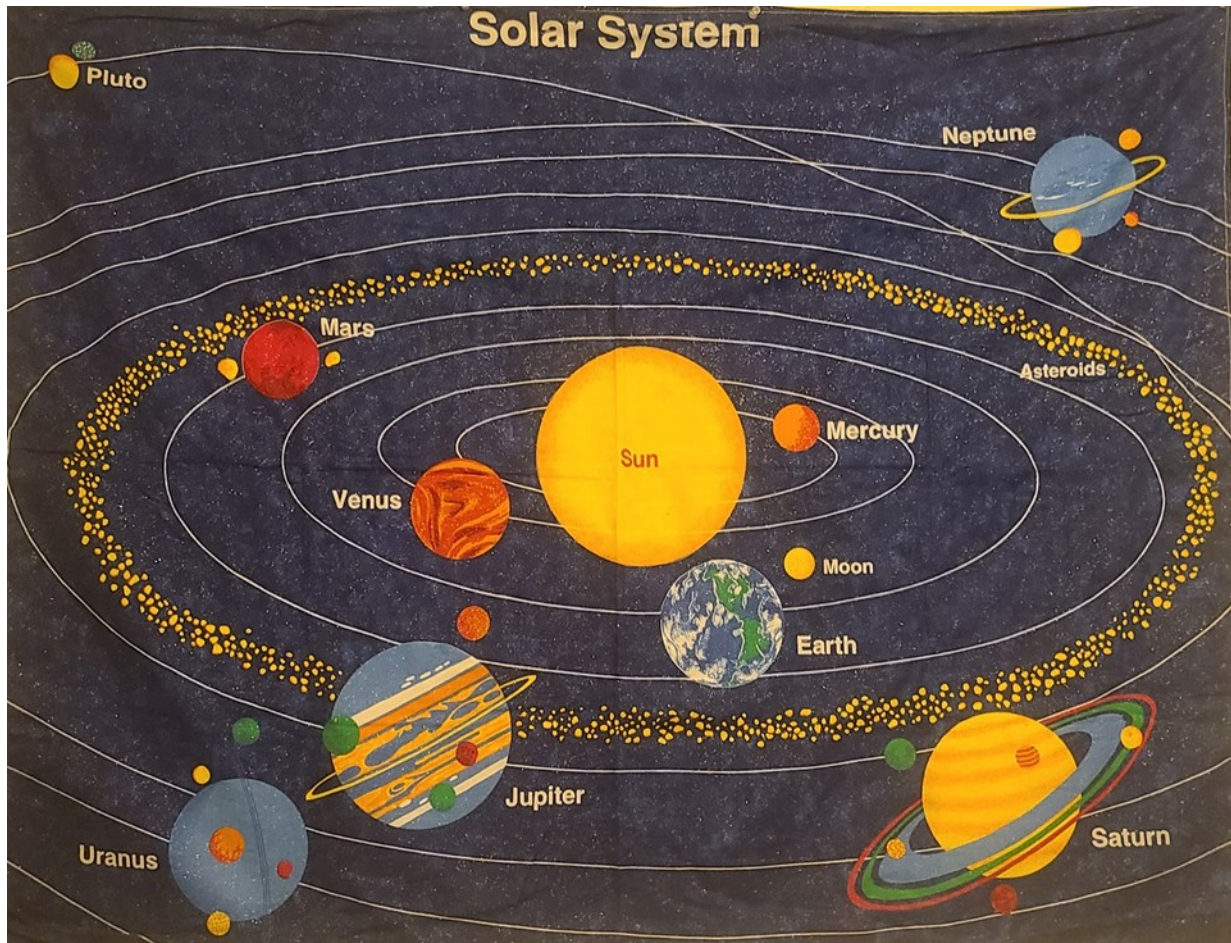
Kindergarten Science books & activities

Following are some sample ideas for science books and activities. The most valuable and powerful learning experiences for young children (and probably all of us) are field trips and doing activities. But books can open the mind and give ideas, information in a more compact format. Books also open the world, even the universe to us—places and people we could not visit ourselves. Wall hangings, posters, place mats . . . any way of including visuals in a long term way helps to solidify ideas and knowledge in a casual way.

General Outline

1. Space & Solar System
2. Light, sound, forces, energy
3. Earth science & air
4. Water—water cycle, phases of water, waterpower, we need & use water
5. Weather/climate/seasons
6. Plants—general, plant parts, garden science
7. Animals—see also Books about Animals, <https://www.learninglab.site/primary-grades>
8. Habitats
9. Humans
 - a. Body: bones, muscles, breathing, blood system, digestion
 - b. Brain, including books & activities for developing brain power
 - c. Health: food, exercise, sleep, healthcare
 - d. Safety: fire, water, accidents, personal safety rules
10. Transportation, tools & technology
11. Kitchen Science

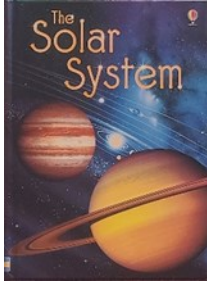
Space & the Solar System



Simple Solar System printed fabric wall hanging.

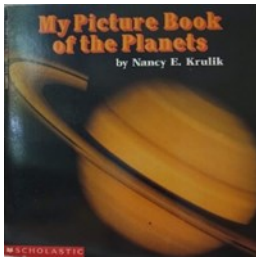


Night Sky by Stephanie Warren Drimmer (National Geographic Kids, Level 2) (Reading independently). Letter to parents, Contents, quiz, glossary. Great photos and diagrams, riddles, cool facts, etc. Good read aloud for Kindergarten to talk about space: our moon and its phases, eclipses, stars and constellations, our sun, falling "stars" (meteors), comets, other planets in the sky, nice diagram of the solar system.



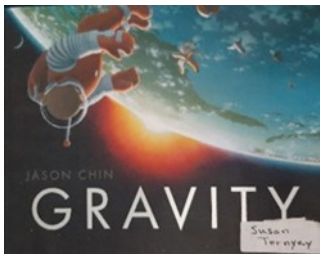
The Solar System

Good illustrations & graphics, contents, glossary, index. Browse & discuss with younger children, reading level grade 2—so that an older child could read to a younger one.



My Picture Book of the Planets by Nancy E. Krulik (Scholastic)

As each planet is introduced, its place in distance from the sun is depicted. Each planet is described in simple terms and compared to earth. All the planets are pictured on the last page. A good introduction to the solar system.

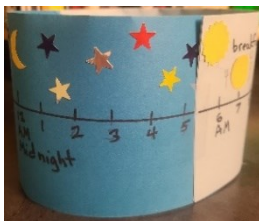
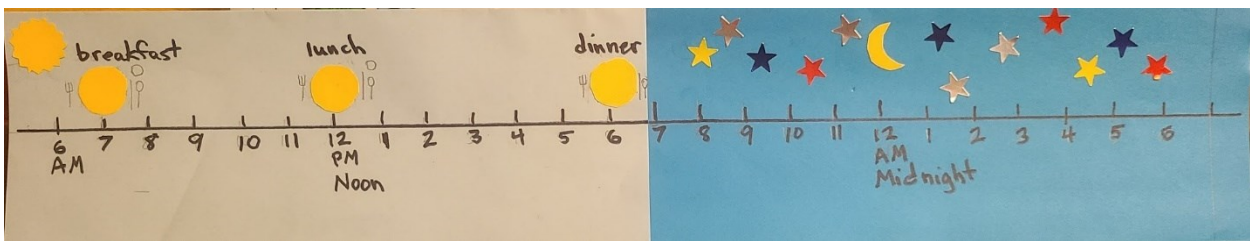


Gravity by Jason Chin; 32 pp, limited text in large font, plus extras; main reading level grades 1-2, ages 4+



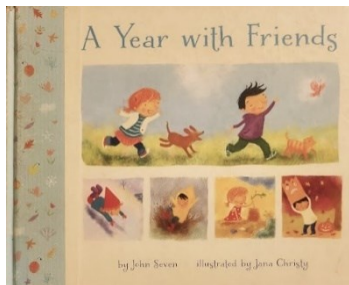
On the Moon by Anna Milbourne (Usborne Little Board Books)

Board book invites imagining while giving & illustrating a lot of information. Reading level grades 1-2.

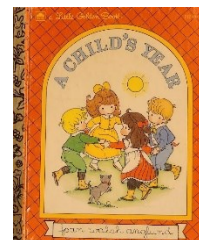


The hours of the day can be depicted like a timeline. Children can glue on sun, moon, and star stickers, as well as some symbols depicting what one does in the day and night.

Activities: visit a planetarium or an observatory, obtain a globe
try to learn to find 2-3 constellations/planets, check out the moon phases



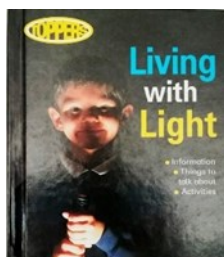
A Year with Friends by John Seven
A rhyming frolic through the year month by month.
Each month has a series of frolicking illustrations.
32 pp, age 3-6, grades PreK to 1st.



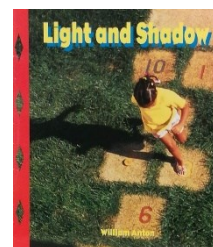
A Child's Year by Joan Walsh Anglund
(a Little Golden Book)
24 pp, ages 2yrs and up.



Light



Living with Light (Toppers)
Information, things to talk about, activities.



Light and Shadow by William Anton
Excellent simple book for young learners.

Activities: have fun with a flashlight, magnifying glass, a prism/crystal, make shadows . . .

Sound

Activities: try making all kinds of sound (notice the vibrations), such as music, animal sounds, phone & computer sounds, machine & vehicle sounds, play Marco Polo (in water or land) . . .

Mr Brown Can Moo! Can You? by Dr Seuss

Forces

Activities: play tug of war, push & pull a wagon/wheelbarrow, etc.

<https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/10-early-learning-books-about-forces-and-motion>

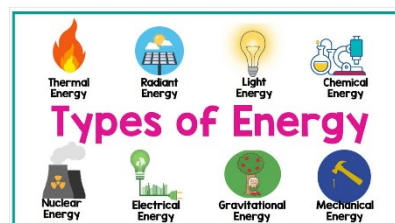
Newton and Me by Lynne Mayer

Energy

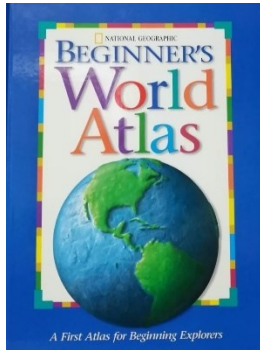
Activities: Kitchen science—heat (cooking, baking), chemical reactions (such as vinegar & baking soda); experiment with magnets, cook with the sun, on the grill . . . all with adult help

Energy: Physical Science for Kids by Andi Diehn

How Does My Home Work? By Chris Butterworth (Exploring the Everyday)

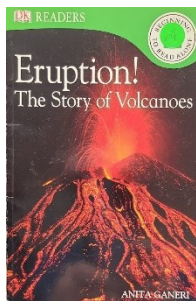


Earth Science



National Geographic Beginner's World Atlas: A First Atlas for Beginning Explorers Reference & browsing for Kindergarteners and their teachers. Excellent. Not to be covered in a day.

Play ball with the world!



Eruption! The Story of Volcanoes by Anita Ganeria (DK Readers, Beginning to Read; Level 2)

Limited text in a large font, but some more sophisticated reading vocabulary than for a typical 1st grader. Includes a Note to Parents, index, extra facts, DK website, quite a list of additional titles. 2nd grade reading level, DRA 24
Suitable for reading to Kindergarten.

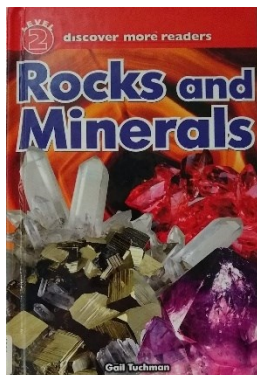
Other books about volcanoes:

Volcanoes! by Anne Schreiber (National Geographic Kids), 32 pp, for K-3

The Magic School Bus Blows Its Top: A Book About Volcanoes by Joanna Cole (Magic School Bus), 32 pp for 4-8 years

Volcanoes! Mountains of Fire (Step into Reading level 4) 48 pp, for 5-7 years (perhaps more text than desirable for Kindergarten, but it begins with Mt St Helens).

Volcanoes by Martha Elizabeth Hillman Rustad (Smithsonian Little Scientist, at least 12 books), 32 pp, for ages 4-6 years; also begins with Mt St Helens--13 chapters, glossary, critical thinking, find more info, index.



Rocks and Minerals by Gail Tuchman (Scholastic Discover More Readers level 2) 32 pp, ages 6-8 years, grades 1-3. Lexile 620.





Treasures of the Earth/Tresors de la Terre placemat: Gems, Stones and Minerals from around the World.



Rock formations at 4 Corners, varieties of landscape rocks; angular rocks, rounded rocks, small/medium/large rocks; rocks are used in concrete and other types of pavement and construction.

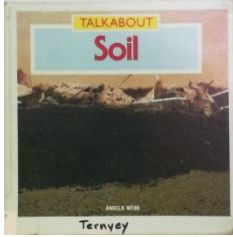
Fine, Medium, Large



Cornstarch, cornmeal, popcorn flour, wheat bran, wheat grains powdered sugar, granulated, crystals

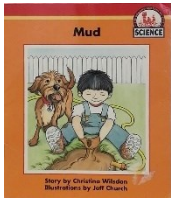


metal around the house, don't forget coins, fixtures, etc.



Soil by Angela Webb (TalkAbout)

An old but excellent title about the varieties of soil; comprehensive at this age, in fact not all suitable for Kindergarten. Great intro into soil science activities and preparing for gardening. May not be easy to find.



Mud by Christina Wilsdon (The Ground Beneath My Feet: Science)

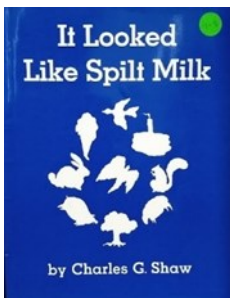
Nice little very beginning reader. 8 pp.

Activities: field trips to rock shop/museum, landscape supply companies or box stores, make your own rock collection (children love to collect rocks), make a terrarium . . .



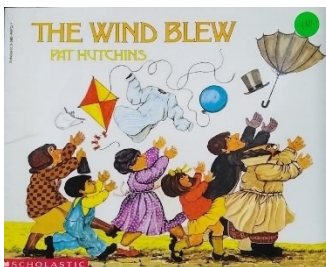
Every Breath We Take by Maya Ajmera & Dominique Browning

“A Book About Air”. Great photos. Good read-aloud. Main part of text easy for pre-K and above to understand. At back are more words/explanations, but intelligible for a Kindergartener with the ability to listen to more words, seeing fewer pictures. Decidedly focused on clean air vs dirty air.



It Looked Like Spilt Milk by Charles G. Shaw

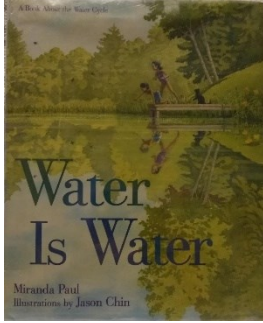
32 pp, Engaging very limited text in large/bold font against a background of blue. Simple illustrations encouraging imaginative cloud watching. Appropriate for ages 2-4, reading level grades K-3.; DRA 7-8



The Wind Blew by Pat Hutchins

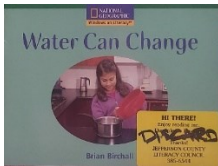
32 pp, Engaging story in a limited large simple font. Interest age 2+, reading level grades 1-2; DRA 16.

Activities: fly a kite, blow up a balloon & squeeze at either end and in the middle, play balloon volleyball, compare a regular balloon to a helium balloon, blow a pinwheel, suck & blow air through a straw (cotton ball races), blow bubbles, fly paper airplanes/balsa wood planes ...



Water is Water by Miranda Paul
“A Book About the Water Cycle”

Poetic picture book of the water cycle. 40 pp, interest ages 2-5, reading level grades 1-2, Lexile 240



Water Can Change by Brian Birchall (National Geographic Windows on Literacy)

Great photos, very limited text in large font; notes for the teacher inside front cover, 138 words including science vocabulary. More titles inside back cover. Essentially kitchen science for the 3 phases of water.



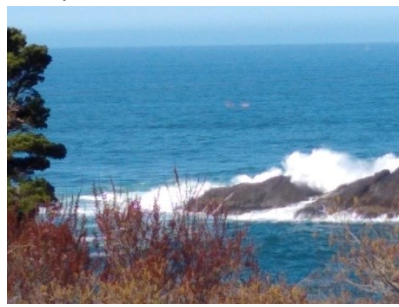
Thank You, God, for Water by Dorothy K. Mock (A Happy Day Book)

24 pp, read-aloud and discuss for Kindergarten.

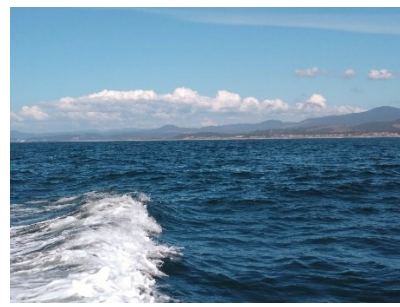
Activities: field trips to rivers, streams, ponds, lakes, the ocean.



Rocks & water at the coast.



Water crashing on the rocks.



Ocean water below, clouds above.

Activities: play in the pool, pour water through a funnel into cups/jars ... play sink/float in the sink/tub, float an egg in plain/salt water, dissolve salt/sugar/drink mix (taste them), mix oil & water, water maze...



Get In by Vic Moors (Reading A-Z level C)

What do you do when it's hot? Very simple beginning to read. Reading A-Z has a great full reading curriculum (the company also has science, etc)

See www.readinga-z.com



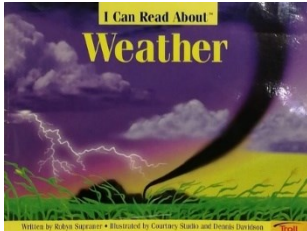
Too, Too Hot! By Judy Kentor Schmauss (Barron's Reader's Clubhouse level 1)

Really nice little appealing book for very beginning reading title. 24 pp, ages 5-6 years.



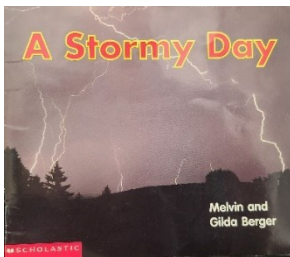
Weather (DK Readers pre-level 1)

“Simple sentences to introduce and reinforce vocabulary”. Contents, pictured glossary, index. Sun, clouds, fog, rain, storm, wind gale, snow, rainbow. 1st grade reading. More titles at <https://www.dk.com/us/category/childrens/>



Weather by Robyn Supraner (I Can Read About, Troll)

46 pp, ages 6-8 years, grades 1-2. Read-aloud and discuss for Kindergarten. Have the children draw 4 kinds of weather and each tell about their favorite.



A Stormy Day by Melvin and Gilda Berger (Scholastic)

Excellent 1st grade reading, Fun Facts for each kind of storm may be for more mature readers.



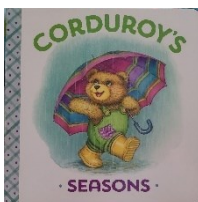
Storm Song by Nancy Viau

Picture book with lots of sound words & rhyming. Limited text in large print. Grade 1-2 reading level. Follows the progression of a storm and the children’s reactions. Offers some coping mechanisms and addresses fears in a poetic way.



Millie-Mae Through the Season by Natalie Marshall

“Four delightful stories inside. Patterned illustrations; brief text in large font, appropriate dress for weather. Reading level grades 1-2.



Corduroy's Seasons

Cute illustrations, rhyming quatrains, reading level grades 1-2, for a bit harder vocabulary.

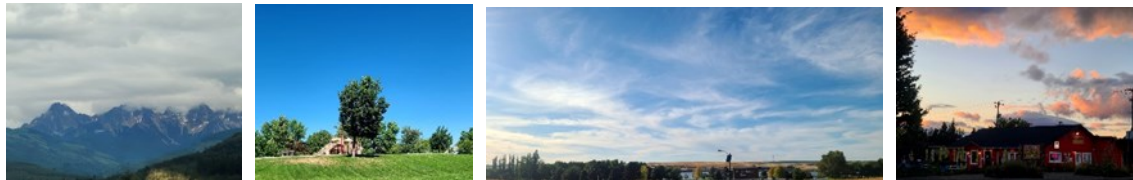


Print a blank calendar to draw what the weather is like each day, before the children dress appropriately (also consider the activities planned for the day). You can find blank calendars to print online. If they don't have the dates already on them, so much the better, as then children can practice counting/writing numbers. Children can also gain a better sense of the passage of time, the days of the week, how many days until . . .

See <https://www.calendarlabs.com/blank-calendar/>



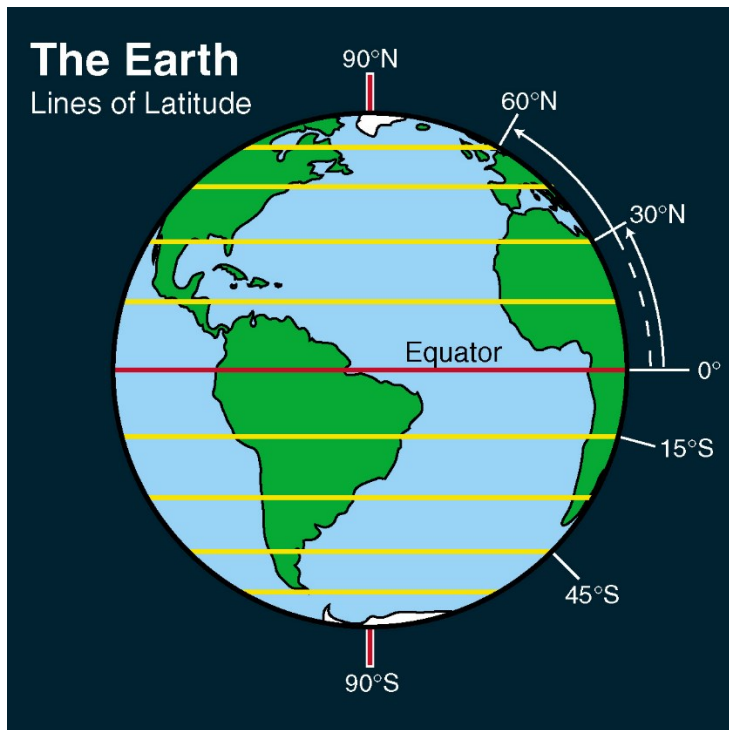
Sky photos—puffy clouds, storm clouds, hazy sky from fires/smoke, sunset at the ocean, night sky



Overcast, clear/cloudless, partly cloudy, sunset.



"Keep Looking Up" by ONG



- Look at an earth globe. See that it is a sphere, like a ball.
- At the top and bottom of the earth are the Arctic and Antarctic—both very cold, snowy places.
- At the middle of the earth is the equator, like its waistline. That is the warmest part of the earth.
- On a half sheet of paper with a simple earth drawn on it, with latitude lines, color the parts of the land on each side of the line of the equator dark green for jungle.
- Color each latitude lighter and lighter green (except North Africa where the Sahara Desert is) until you get to the white of the polar caps.

On a half sheet of paper with a simple mountain range drawn on it (similar to the 2nd figure below), color the climate bands to show how the kinds of plants that can grow in a place depends on how high up on the mountain they are, as well as whether they are on the side where the ocean is, or the other side where the mountains block the rain (known as a rain shadow). In the Pacific Northwest the lowland next to the ocean should be colored dark green (we even have a rainforest in one place), then gradually color lighter green until you get to the rocky, snowy peaks of the Cascade Mountains. The eastern side is drier.

Climate of High mountain

- The winters are cold and the summer are fresh
- The rainfalls are superior to the nearby areas with minor altitude
- The vegetation is staggered in floors . The vegetation changes according to area of the mountain

VEGETATION ZONATION IN MOUNTAINS

Climate of a place.

- High mountains act as barriers for cold or hot winds; they may also cause precipitation if they are high enough and lie in the path of rain-bearing winds. The leeward side of mountains remains relatively dry.

Fungi



Let yeast soak in water some hours and see how it grows.



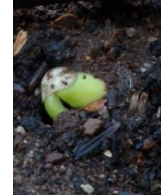
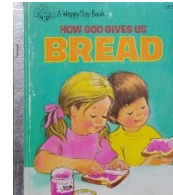
Mushrooms



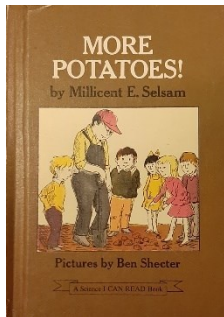
Plants



Grains/grasses Activity: compare different kinds of grains and grain products (corn is also a grass). See my [Grains](#) booklet, and [Grain to Groceries](#) PDF booklets on the "Kindergarten/Language Arts-Literacy" page/box. [The Little Red Hen](#) is an appropriate literature connection.



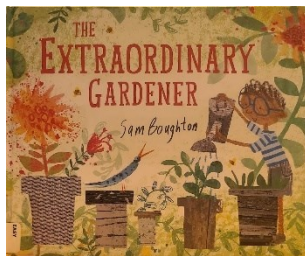
Various grains, sprouted wheat, wheat grass, wheat ready to harvest. Grain to bread. Bean sprouting. Sprout wheat, beans, peas . . . can be done in a ziplock baggie with a bit of water, set in light



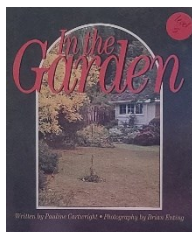
More Potatoes by Millicent E. Selsam (A Science I Can Read Book)
64 pp; following the potato from field to table. Can be read in parts, summarized and discussed for Kindergarten.



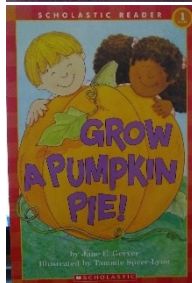
Watch a cut potato go black compared to one dipped in salt water; sprout a potato or other roots, stems



The Extraordinary Gardener by Sam Boughton
Engaging picture book about imagination, gardening, sharing, cityscapes & life. Very limited text, some challenging words, in large font.



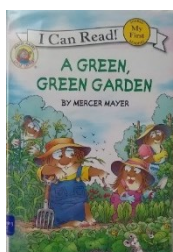
In the Garden by Pauline Cartwright
Limited words, repetitive text in a large font; more titles inside back cover.



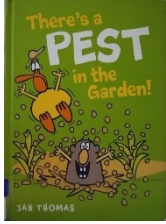
Grow a Pumpkin Pie! By Jane E. Gerver, Scholastic Reader level 1



Garden Day! By Candice Ransom (Step into Reading Level 1—“Ready to Read. Preschool-Kindergarten . . . know the alphabet . . . Big Type and Easy Words, Rhyme and rhythm, Picture clues”). From soil preparation to planting peas, visiting farm stand for carrots.



A Green, Green Garden by Mercer Mayer (I Can Read!—My First: shared reading)
“Basic language, word repetition, and whimsical illustrations, ideal for sharing with your emergent reader.” Letter to parent about reading levels at the beginning. From buying seeds & plants, preparing the soil, including composting, buying worms and good bugs, weeding, watering, waiting, deer, through harvest and eating the fruition. Humor in the illustrations.



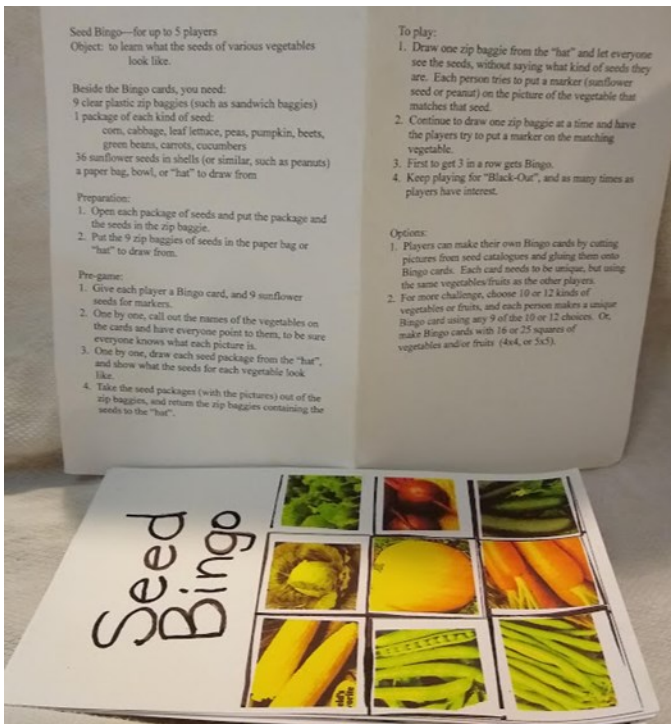
There's a Pest in the Garden! By Jan Thomas

Very simple illustrations show humor and feelings. Simple limited text in large font, anticipation, problem solving. Discuss whether a fence will keep out burrowing pests. Three-step suggestions for developing readers at back. Additional titles pictured at back.



Early days in the raised bed garden

One day's garden harvest



Seed Bingo game, by ST

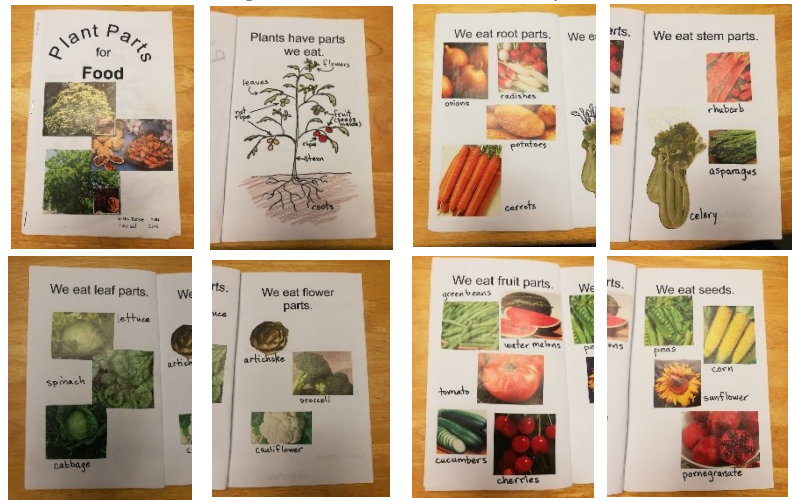
Make 9-square Bingo cards with pictures from seed catalogues. Let the players make their own cards, if they can, and paste the pictures in whatever order they like, so each player's card will be unique. You will need 9 kinds of seeds, in clear containers (such as sealable baggies) to draw from a bag. You will need enough edible sunflower seeds for all of the players to use as markers. To play, draw a type of seed from the bag. Each player puts a sunflower seed marker on the plant that produces that kind of seed. Play until all have achieved a "blackout". You may wish to familiarize the children with what each plant and seed combination look like before playing the game.

Books about plants from Target

<https://www.target.com/s/plants+books+for+kids?ref=tgt>



A poster I made. A tomato plant is a good choice because you can see all the plant parts on the same plant at once. (Note: tomatoes are technically the fruit of the plant, even though we think of them as vegetables.) Book created by me 2004, 2009.



Seeds in the kitchen:

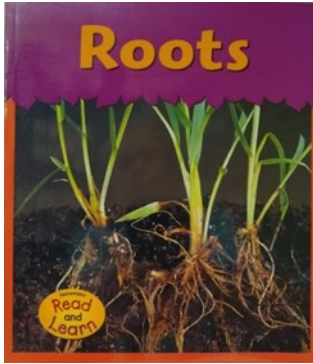


almonds are seeds



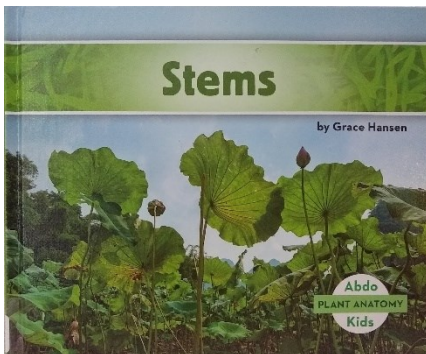
pecans are seeds

Unlabeled seeds above: flax, sesame, sunflower



Roots by Patricia Whitehouse (Read and Learn series)

Contents, quiz, picture glossary, note to Parents and Teachers, answers to quiz, index. Functions of roots, how they grow, types of roots, how people and animals use roots. Excellent simple explanations to go with great labeled photos. Other titles listed on back cover: Flowers, Leaves, Seeds, Plant ABC, Plant Math.



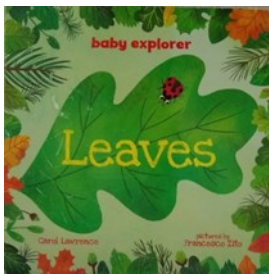
Stems by Grace Hansen (Abdo Kids, Plant Anatomy)

Excellent series. Read-aloud, browse, or summarize & discuss.



Leaves by Grace Hansen (Abdo Kids, Plant Anatomy)

This excellent series includes Roots, Stems, Leaves, Flowers, Fruits, Seeds. Read-aloud, browse, or summarize & discuss.



Leaves by Carol Lawrence (baby explorer)

Don't let the fact that this is a board book or called "baby explorer" cause you to dismiss this title. There's a lot of information and sophistication of ideas presented. Deciduous trees, evergreens/conifers, nicely labeled clear illustrations. Types of leaves, pattern of growth on stems, symmetry, magnified leaf interior layers, chlorophyll and the process of photosynthesis, oxygen. Ancient plants, and fun in the fall.



Yellow rose

red amaryllis



Make a rainbow of flowers, a bouquet for someone sick, sad, alone, or to decorate a grave.



Make a leaf collection.



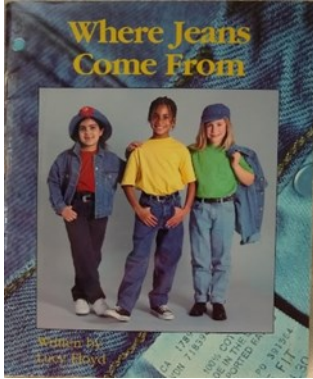
Press leaves like flowers to keep them.

Trace around leaves to make a booklet of their shapes.

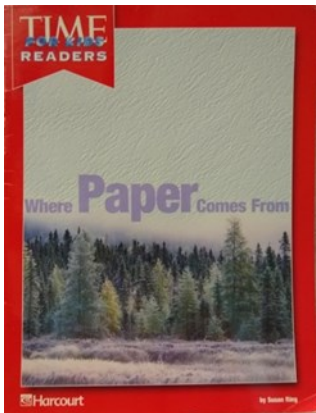
Make leaf rubbings (cover the leaf with a paper, then rub over the top of it with a crayon, chalk, or pencil).



Cookie cutter can also cut bread and sandwich makings, brownies, etc.



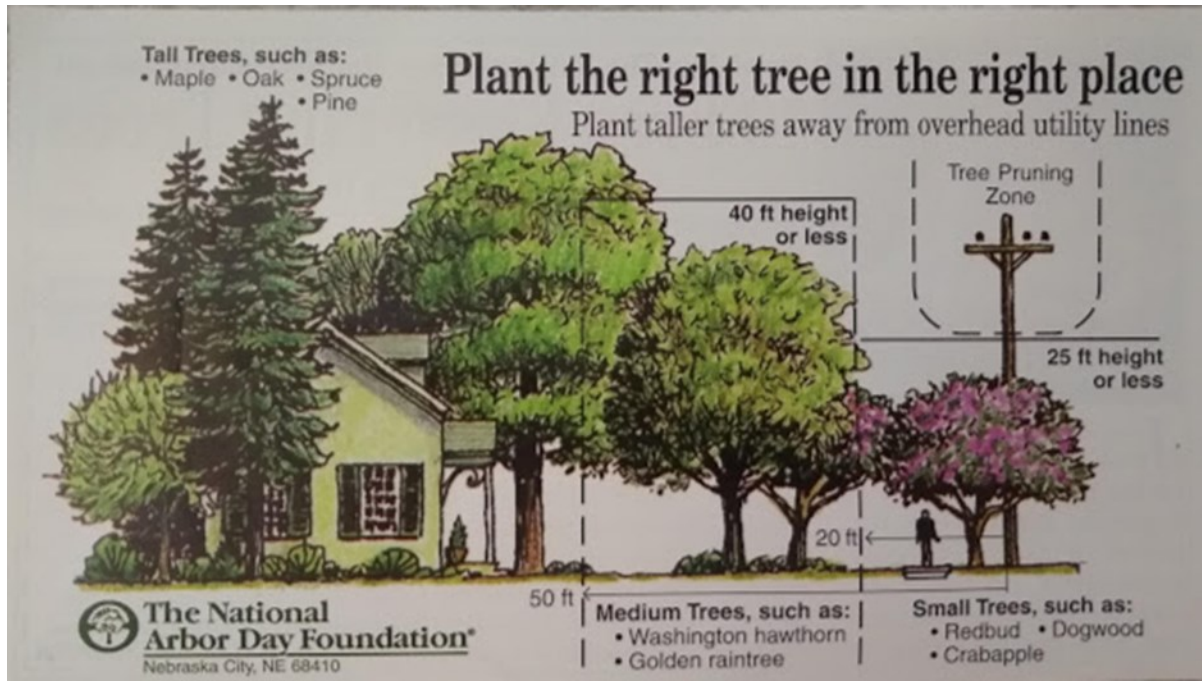
Where Jeans Come From by Lucy Floyd (Silver Burdett Ginn Leveled Readers, Stage 5, Level 28) From cotton field through harvest, manufacture of cloth, to products such as jeans. Excellent step by step explanation. Good photos. About grades 1-2 reading level. Great read aloud for younger children.



Where Paper Comes From by Susan Ring (time for Kids Readers) Traces the history of papermaking from Egypt and China to present day. What it's made of and its uses. Very limited text in simple sentences and large font. Word Count 63. Not a lot of information, but valuable to know. Questions at the end.

What other things we use come from plants? Make a chart of how many things from trees, shrubs, etc.

- Wood for building
- Plants for food
- Plants for medicines
- Plants for clothes
- Tools (pencils, ax handles . . .)
- Household items, such as picture frames, toilet seats, furniture . . .
- Toys



There are all kinds of places to pick up pictures and information. This shows relative sizes, shapes, colors of different trees, compared to a person, a house, and a retro utility pole. Beside naming a few trees of each kind, this can also guide your drawings of trees.



Signs of the seasons in the lives of trees. Make the bare trees and let the children color them as befits each season. Simple outline of a tree to paint or color. If bird stickers are to be added, do that after painting, but before using crayons to color. Sing "In the Leafy Treetops"



Miniature peach tree

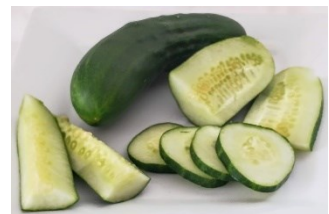


quince tree



Cut the apple different ways to show how it looks each way.

Cucumber cuts.





Take frequent walks around the neighborhood, and in the forest. Notice the bark, size & shapes of trees.



Tree varieties.

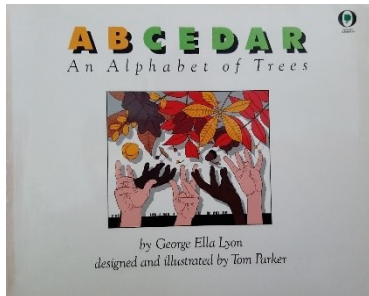
Trees in fall.



Simple outline of a tree to paint or color. If adding bird stickers, paint first. If using crayons, add stickers first. Sing "In the Leafy Treetops".

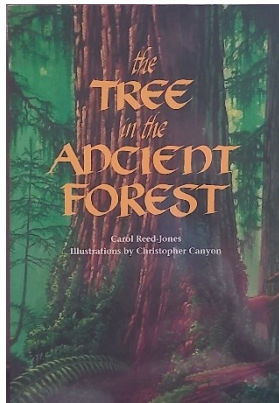


Circle as you count: large oak leaves, yellow oak leaves, acorns (oak tree seeds), red Maple leaves, yellow maple leaves, green maple leaves. How many leaves altogether? (x them as you count).



A B Cedar, An Alphabet of Trees by George Ella Lyon

Interest age 2+. A great read-aloud, browsing book, and reference for all ages. Depicts relative size and shape of various trees, leaves, etc.



The Tree in the Ancient Forest by Carol Reed-Jones

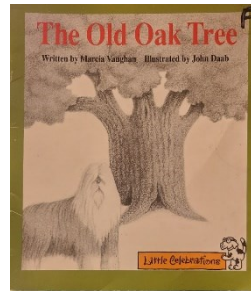
Beautiful picture book brief repetitive text in large font, various animals, more info & other titles at the end. Reading level grades 1-2.



Bonsai stamps



tree cross section pillow



oak seedling



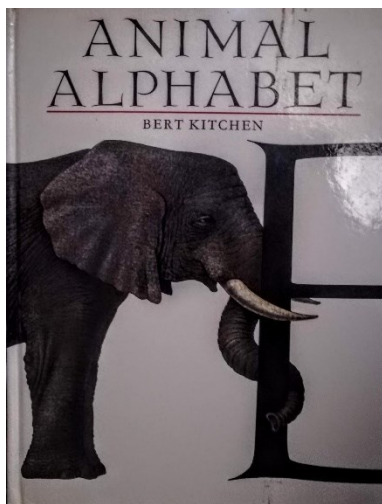
The Old Oak Tree by Marcia Vaughan

Various animals live in the oak tree. Some repetition. More titles inside back cover.

Animals

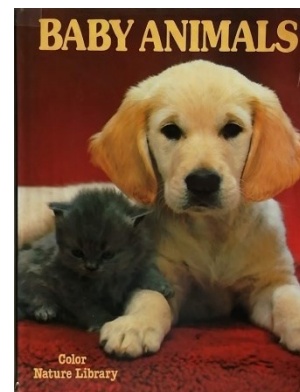
A sample of books/activities to explore through books and field trips (back yard, zoo, field & forest...)
See also "Books about Animals—K through grade 2" at <https://www.learninglab.site/primary-grades>

1. General materials on the subject of animals
2. Lower Animals
3. Mollusks & Echinoderms, such as clams, octopus, nautilus, snails, slugs, starfish, urchins
4. Arthropods, such as lobsters, crabs, spiders, insects
5. Fishes
6. Amphibians: frogs, salamanders, newts, etc.
7. Reptiles: snakes, alligators & crocodiles, turtles & tortoises, lizards
8. Birds
9. Mammals



Animal Alphabet by Bert Kitchen

Tremendous, large book with animals ordered by beginning letter.



Baby Animals (Color Nature Library)

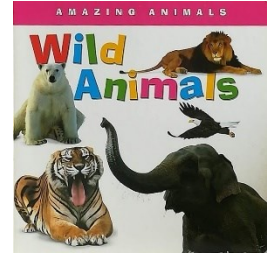
Browsing, summarizing, discussing.



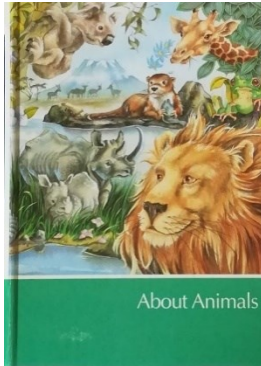
These beautiful sheets printed by the Forest Service can be used to compare various animals, for seeing how to draw them (either the teacher or the student), or if you dare, you could cut them out to glue on cards or habitat pictures.



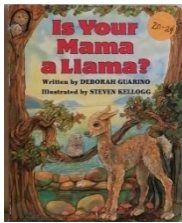
Sea Creatures (Amazing Animals)
Board book, good intro for young kids.



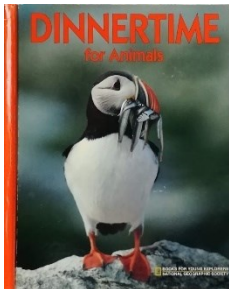
Wild Animals (Amazing Animals)
Board book, good intro for young kids.



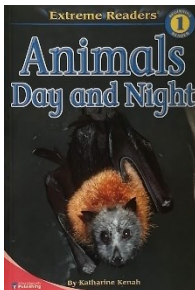
About Animals (a World Book publication)
Browsing, summarizing, discussing for Kindergarten and younger.



Is Your Mama a Llama? By Deborah Guarino
Delightful little board book (or other format) about different animals, in rhyme. 14 pp.
Reading level grade 1-2, 290 Lexile, DRA 20-24.



Dinnertime for Animals (National Geographic Books for Young Explorers)
Read-aloud, browsing, summarizing, discussing for Kindergarten.



Animals Day and Night by Katharine Kenah (Extreme Readers level 1, beginning reading)



Left: another great poster printed by the Forest Service, showing labeled nocturnal animals, and reminding us not to light up our campsites like the Super Bowl.



Above: great posters from US Fish & Wildlife Service.



Lots of kids find stickers motivational, and these are educational as well.

Animal figures are fun





Animal Cookies are fun to make. Cookie cutters can also be used as patterns for drawing/depicting Animals for Charades, art projects, etc.



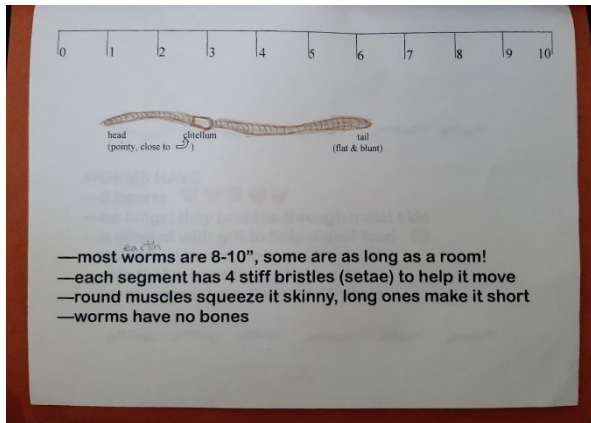
Animal stencils



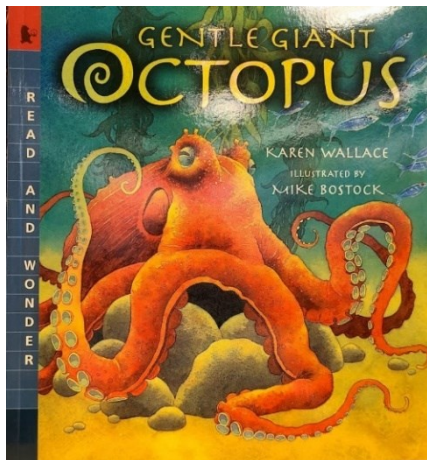
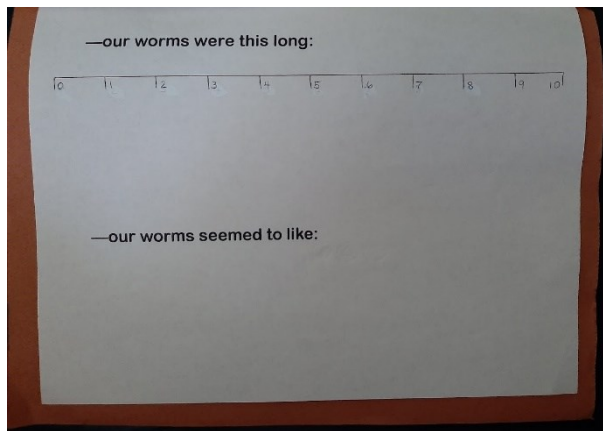
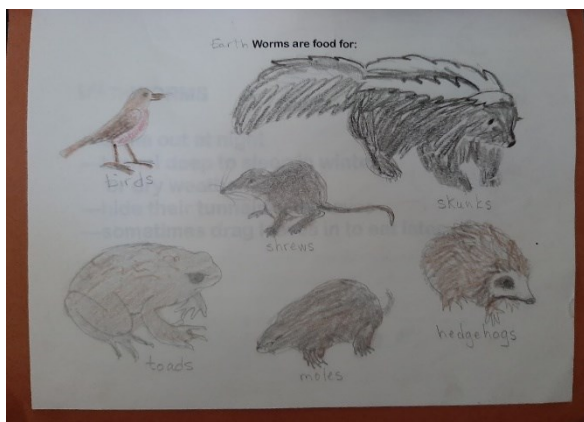
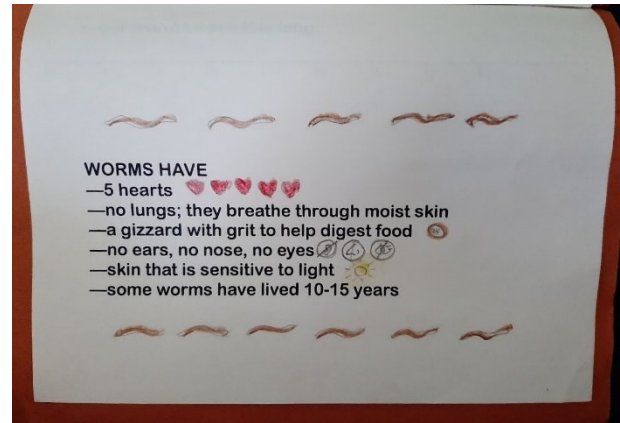
Inexpensive calendars can be a great source of pictures for learning, decorating, demonstrating, to draw from, to compare/contrast, to make browsing books—even after the calendars have been used.



Various animal card games . . . match them, put them in a habitat zoo, put like critters together (deal them out, take turns putting an animal on a pile in the center that is like the previous animal in some way . . . hooves, 4-legged, feathers, jumps, eats plants/insects/meat, is awake at night, etc.), or just put all the mammals in a pile, all the birds in another, all the fish in another, and so forth.



Worm book by Susan Ternyey, early 1990s



Gentle Giant Octopus by Karen Wallace; 32 pp, AD680 Lexile, appropriate for 4-8 years etc.

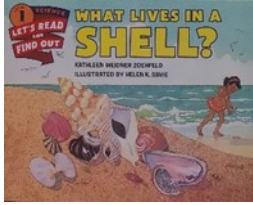
Snail yard art



A snail we caught in the forest.
(on private land)

A snail at home
at my home



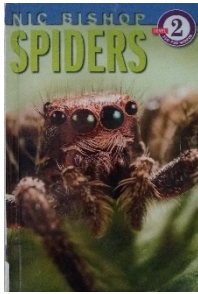


What Lives in a Shell? By Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld

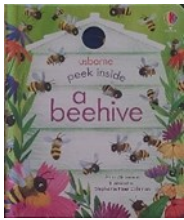
Nice illustrations, brief text in large font. Grade 2 reading level. 32 pp. More titles in the series inside front cover & back cover.



While learning about animals that live in shells, take a field trip to the grocery store. Some restaurants have crabs and lobsters in a tank to look at.

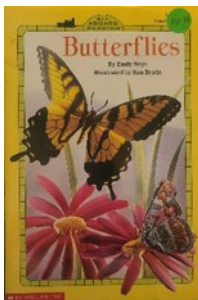


Spiders by Nic Bishop, reading level 2; 250-750 words



A Beehive by Anna Milbourne (Usborne Peek Inside)

Lift the flap board book, fun way to see more. Read-aloud to K, reading level grade 1.



Butterflies by Emily Neye (All Aboard Reading)

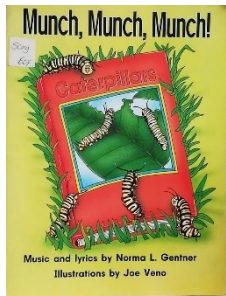
Nice illustrations, simple text in large font; reading level grades 1-2.



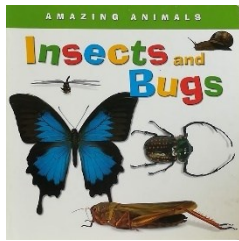
A puzzle at right
To reinforce understanding.



You don't have to be a great artist to show the relative size of butterfly silhouettes. No worry about getting the intricate coloring right. But this helps kids make a connection to the size of a 1 centimeter creature vs the size of a 12" creature. You can also note the symmetry, as you cut them out of folded paper. Draw where you want to cut first, with the measurement accordingly halved.



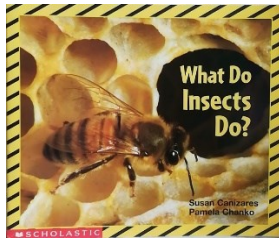
Munch, Munch, Munch! music and lyrics by Norma L. Gentner
Fun book for Kindergarten and younger.



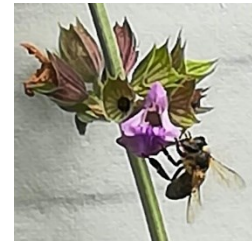
Insects and Bugs (Amazing Animals)
Board book, good intro for young children.



Moth



What Do Insects Do? By Susan Canizares and Pamela Chanko (Scholastic)
Excellent, simple little book. 14 pp.
Part of Science Emergent Readers, which has at least 21 titles.



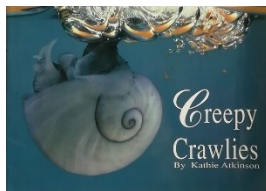
Right: busy bees



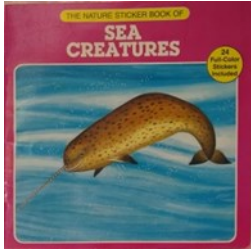
Left:
preying mantis (missing a leg)
walking stick (note how his shadow is a different shape)



Insect crafts with food



Creepy Crawlies by Kathie Atkinson
For ages 5-8. This author has many interesting titles, but they may be hard to find in print. See <https://www.bookdepository.com/author/Kathie-Atkinson>



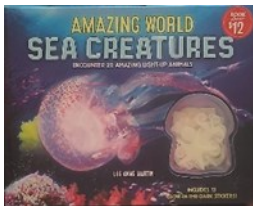
The Nature Sticker Book of Sea Creatures by Victoria Crenson

Realistic full page clear illustrations, with quite bit of information on the facing page. Possibly summarize for kindergarten, read about one animal at time, and it can be used after readings as a browsing/reference book. Includes some less written about species for children: shark, barracuda, swordfish, flying fish, manta ray, seahorse, octopus, eel, sponge, jellyfish, dolphin, narwhal.



Little Kids First Big Book of the Ocean (National Geographic Kids)

Picture & reference book with great photos, brief text in large font, reading level grade 2

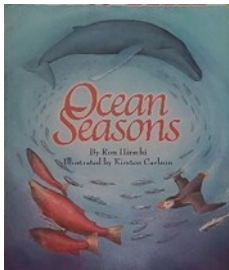


Sea Creatures by Lee Anne Martin (Amazing World)

Browsing, reference picture book with glossary & glow-in-the-dark stickers

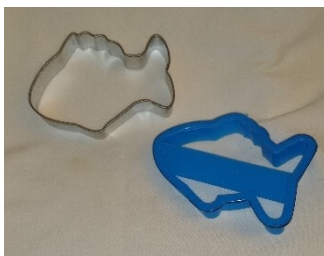


Fish mold



Ocean Seasons by Ron Hirschi

Lovely illustrations, brief text in large font, suggested activity, and additional info; reading level grade 2—more titles on back cover.



Cookie cutters can cut other foods/media
Or be used to trace on paper to color or label.



fishing game is fun for kids

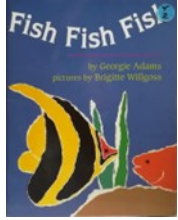
You can trace cookie cutter fish on paper or felt/cloth.



sea horse jewelry

one fish,
two fish





Fish, Fish, Fish by Georgie Adams
Simple yet factual intro for young kids.



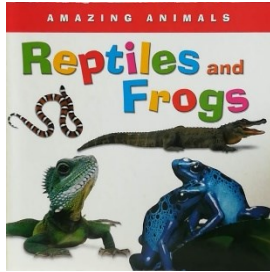
Ocean poster



a salamander we caught in the forest, on private land



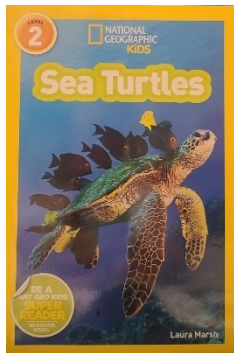
toy frog



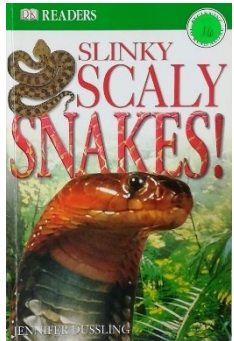
Reptiles and Frogs (Amazing Animals)
Board book, good intro for young kids.
Read-aloud for Kindergarten & younger.



tortoise statue at the store

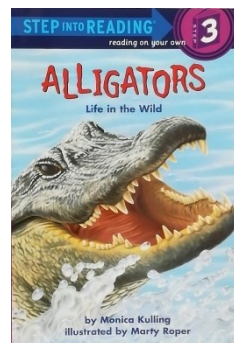


Sea Turtles by Laura Marsh (National Geographic Kids level 2), grades 1-2; letter to parents, contents, 32 pp, 10 chapters, Q&A on some pages, map of range, photos w/labeled body parts, fairly comprehensive coverage, picture glossary; more titles inside back cover.



Slinky, Scaly Snakes by Jennifer Dussling (DK Readers)
Reading level DRA 16. Read-aloud for Kindergarten.

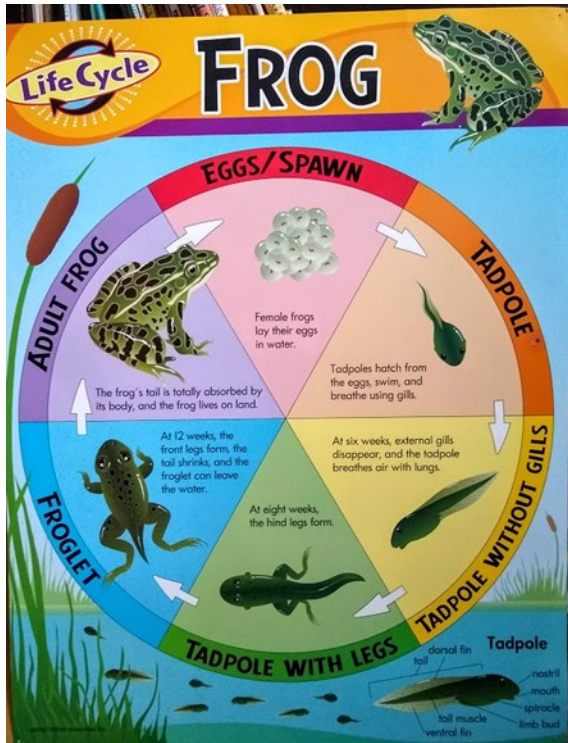
at the reptile show



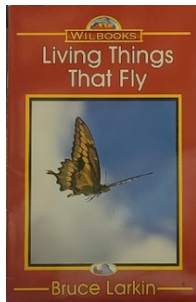
Alligators: Life in the Wild by Monica Kulling (Step into Reading, level 3)
Read-aloud for Kindergarten.

alligator handled with care
Don't do this at home.



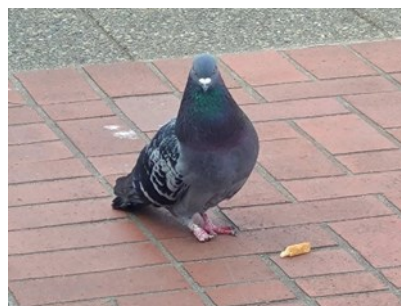


A couple of great posters from an educational toys and supplies store. Children could glue the wedges together in order.



Living Things That Fly by Bruce Larkin (Wilbooks)
8 pp, very limited text in large font. Reading level grade 1.

pretend bird

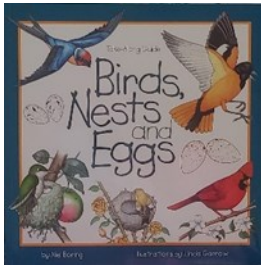
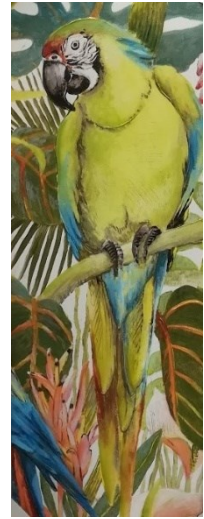


Pigeons, photos by ST

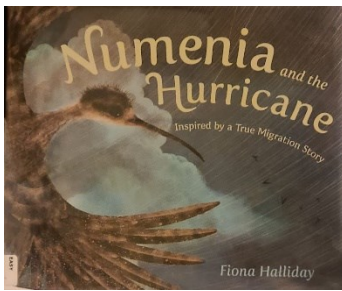


flamingo painting by an anonymous young woman

parrot painting available in the home décor aisle



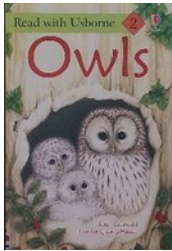
Birds, Nests, and Eggs by Mel Boring
Browsing book for Primary grades; contents, activities, various breeds with nests & eggs. More titles listed at the end. Intermediate reading level.



Numenia and the Hurricane:
Inspired by a True Migration Story
by Fiona Halliday
A beautiful picture book, rhyming stanzas, equinox, migration, North Star, word choice, interesting illustration viewpoints, sisterhood; the true story behind, bibliography.



Heron at the ceiling of the Water Resources Center



Owls by Sarah Courtauld (Read with Usborne level 2)
Pleasant illustrations, limited text in large font, extra info & index at the end. Grade 1 reading level.

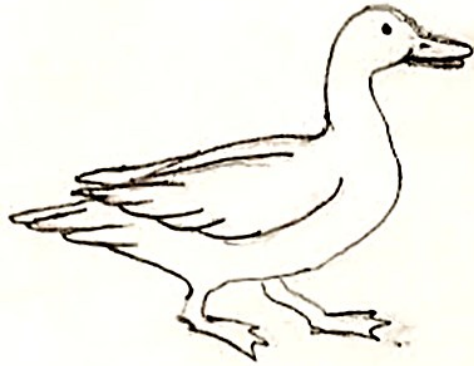


cardinal yard art



You can trace pictures from coloring books to create décor for the month, the season, or current topics of study. They can also be used for flannel board stories or song clues.





Parts to identify:

Head
Beak/bill
Eye
Nostril
Neck
Breast
Back
Wings
Feather(s)
Tail
Legs
Feet (webbing between toes)



Notes to myself in preparation for making a page for children to draw lines from each bird part to its label.



Chick & Duck cookie cutter, can cut other foods or media, or can be used to trace on paper, fabric/felt, cardboard, etc.



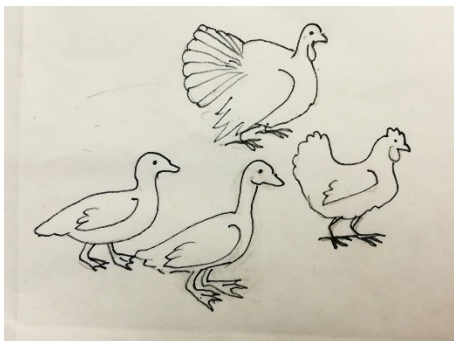
Bateman's Backyard Birds by Robert Bateman
Diagram inside cover; nice size, quality pictures.

What is a Bird? by Bobbie Kalman
Good, simple.

Birds by Kevin Henkes
More a piece of literature than science.



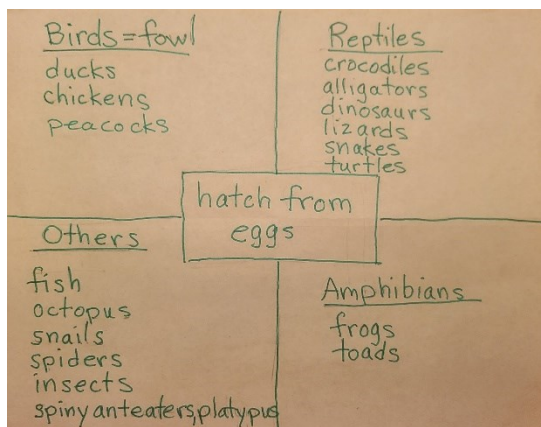
above: chickens avoiding the heat.
Left: domestic fowl, by ST



Visit a farm and count how many of each animal.

Group review of Chickens Aren't The Only Ones by Ruth Heller (Scholastic)

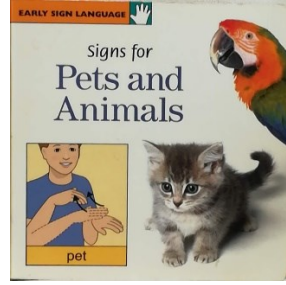
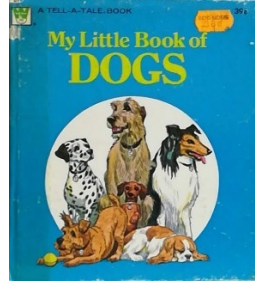
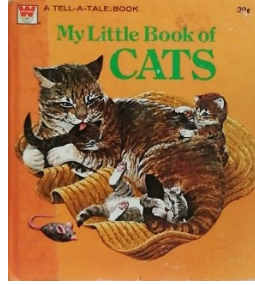
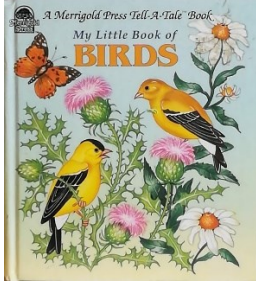
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3tiRT7enQzk&ab_channel=LittleBookworms



Eggs that come colored from the hens.

	group	male	female	young
horse	herd	stallion gelding	mare	colt foal
cattle kine	herd	bull steer	cow	calf heifer
goat	herd	billy	nanny	kid
sheep	flock	ram	ewe	lamb
rabbits	colony fluffie	buck	doe	kit
pig	herd drove	boar	sow	piglet
deer	herd	buck	doe	fawn
elephant	herd parade	bull	cow	calf
lion	pride	lion	lioness	cub
tiger	*streak ambush	tiger	tigress	cub
fox	skulk	dog	vixen	cub
whale	pod	bull	cow	calf
fish	fish	fish	fish	fry
chicken	flock	rooster	hen	chick
turkey	flock gang	tom gobbler	hen	poult
goose	gaggle	gander	goose	gosling
duck	raft	drake	duck	duckling

Verbal group assessment of what animal groups, males, females, and young are called.

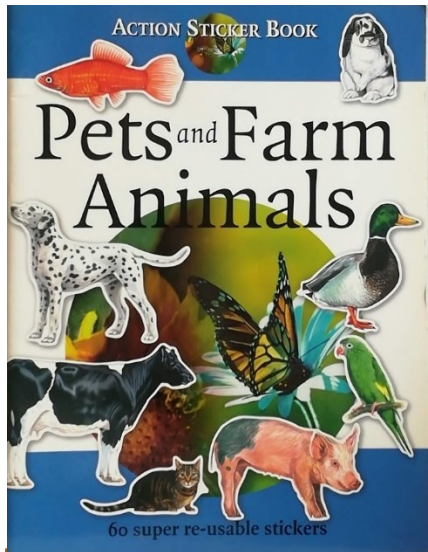


My Little Book of Birds (A Merrigold Press Tell-a-Tale Book)

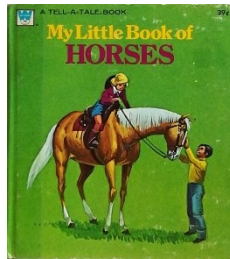
My Little Book of Cats (A Tell-a-Tale Book)

My Little Book of Dogs (A Tell-a-Tale Book)

Signs for Pets and Animals (Early Sign Language)

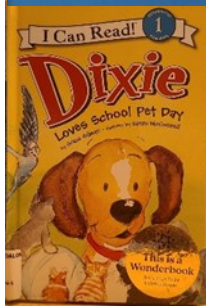


Pets and Farm Animals (Action Sticker Book)



My Little Book of Horses
(A Tell-a-Tale Book)

pet stamps



Dixie Loves School Pet Day by Grace Gilman (I Can Read level 1)
USB rechargeable recorded reading attached.
Grade 1--simple sentences for eager new readers.
32 pp limited text in large font. Variety of pets.
New student, making friends, problem solving.

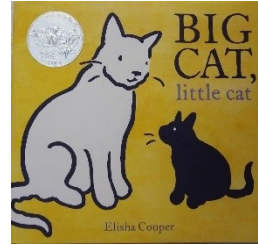
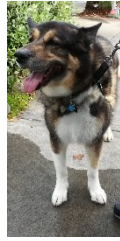


Toy horse

Consider an ant farm as a class pet choice.



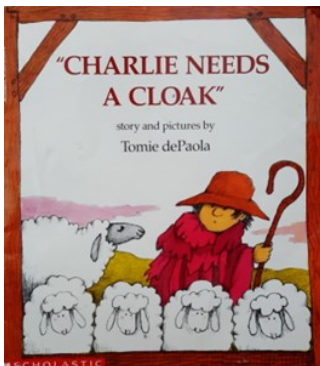
horse by an unknown artist
cow by an unknown artist



Big Cat, little cat by Elisha Cooper
An excellent book comparing opposites, but also addressing issues of aging, death, a generation passing to the next, etc. Caldecott honor book.



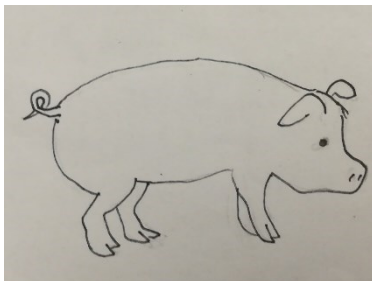
The Little Lamb (Read to Me series)
About a 7-8 year old girl raises a dogie lamb.
Brief text in large font, reading level grades 2-3,
read-aloud for younger children



Charlie Needs a Cloak by Tomie dePaola--Popular author, artist.
Follows from sheep shearing to sewing a cloak; 32 pp reading level grades 1-4, 500 Lexile; interest 3-7 years

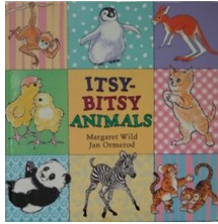


Pigs by Gail Gibbons (author/illustrator of many great titles)
Nice illustrations, pretty comprehensive but brief text in large font. Reading level grade 2. Read-aloud for K.



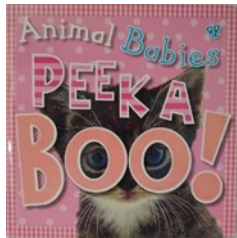
Hogs are huge pigs.

Collect pig sayings. How are pigs/hogs characterized in different cultures?



Itsy-Bitsy Animals by Margaret Wild

One sentence per page, with a somewhat cutesy illustration of each animal. Background rather dated. Not all the animals are exactly “itsy-bitsy”, such as a panda or elephants, but it’s relative, I suppose. Rhyming text in large font. Repetition of this, that, these, those, all the. Animals include: kitten, panda, chickens, emus, kangaroo, zebra, elephants, ducklings, parrot, badger, puppies, penguins, monkey, seahorse, rabbits, tigers,

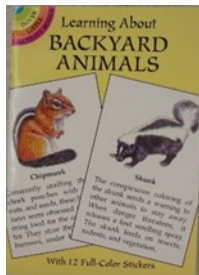


Animal Babies Peek-a-Boo!

A little gimmicky (touchy feely stuff), but the photos are good. Lift the flap pages say, “when s/he’s found, maker her/his sound.” Rhyming text in large, sometime irregular font. Kitten, bear, penguins, puppy, ducklings.



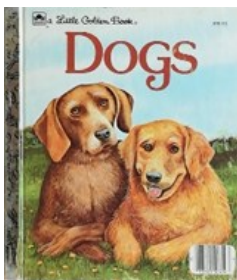
Chipmunk finger puppet



Learning About Backyard Animals (Dover Little Activity Books)

Stickers are in the center of the book, to be added each to its page, giving a paragraph of information about the animal. Opossum, Gray Squirrel, Raccoon, White-footed Mouse, Cottontail Rabbit, Short-tailed Shrew, Chipmunk, Toad, Mole, Skunk, Woodchuck, Bat. Additional titles inside back cover, as well as website to browse other titles and download free sample pages and activities.

www.doverpublications.com .



Dogs (a Little Golden Book)

Good as a read-aloud or browsing book for Kindergarten.

Right: toy & real dogs



You can make a chart of family or favorite pets, the number/kind of dogs you see in a day or week or on a walk . . .

Make a chart of How to Care for your Pet—what do pets need?

Provide an appropriate home

What temperature does it need? Extra heat? Cooling/shade?

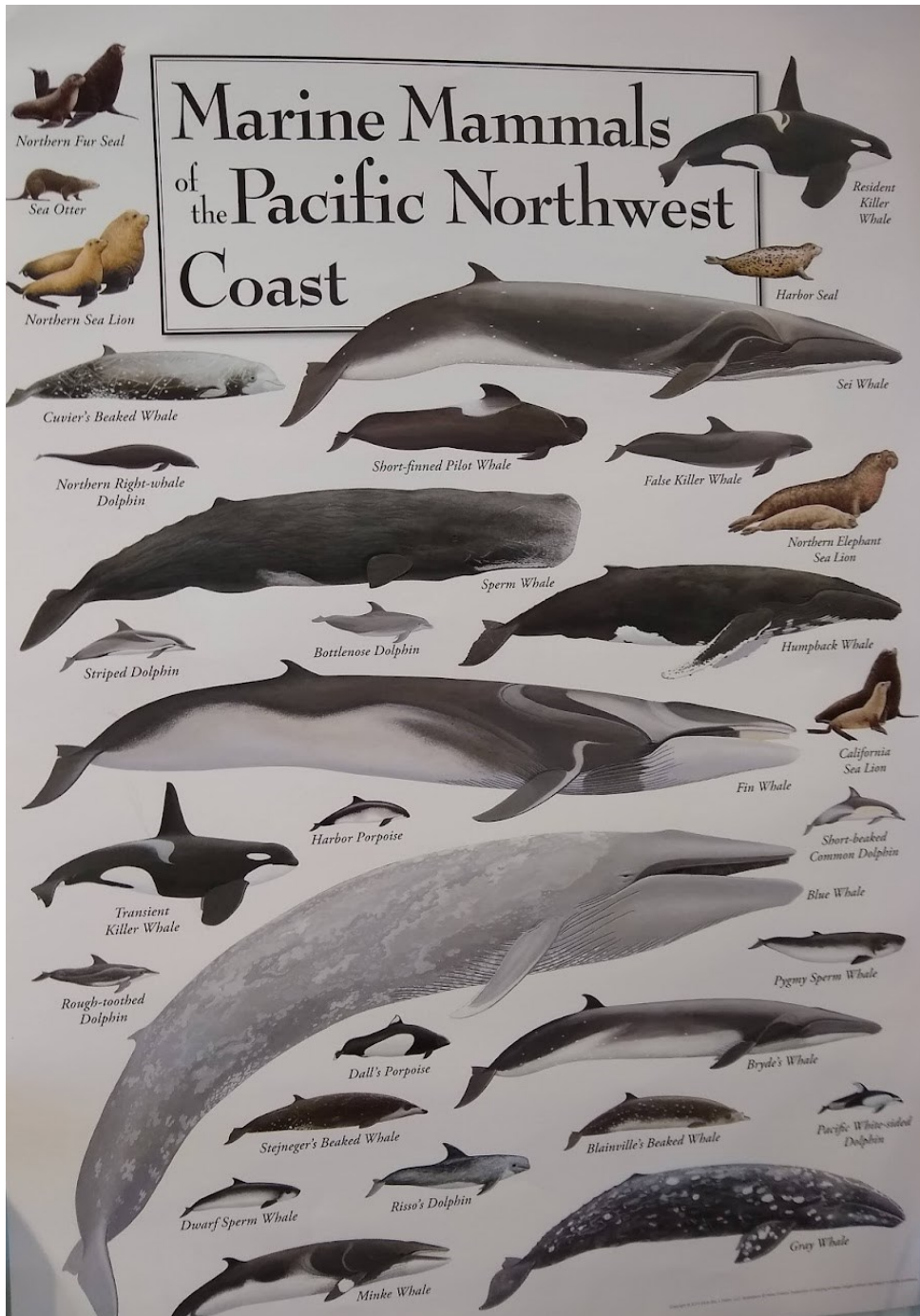
Food

Exercise

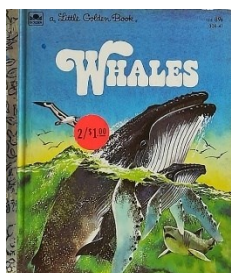
Sleep

Health care

Safety issues (cage? Leash? Stay indoors?)

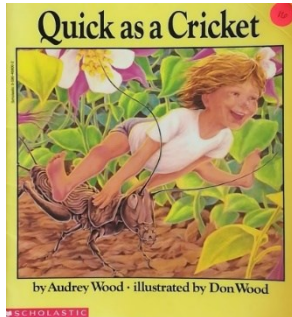


Poster from the Whale Watching Center at Depoe Bay, Oregon coast



Whales (a Little Golden Book)
Read-aloud for Kindergarten

Learn about and draw your favorite whale.



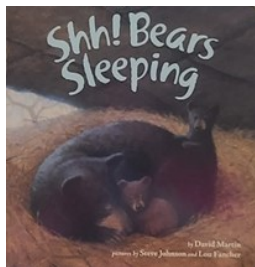
Quick as a Cricket by Audrey Wood

A Kindergarten classic, relates children to animals in lovely language and illustrations.



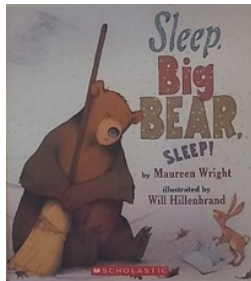
Biggest, Strongest, Fastest by Steve Jenkins

Nice simple illustrations including size comparisons. Limited text in large font plus info in smaller font; main text reading level grades 1-2, good also for browsing & discussion. Chart at the end.



Shh! Bears Sleeping by David Martin

Board book, nice illustrations, limited rhyming text. Grade 1 reading level.



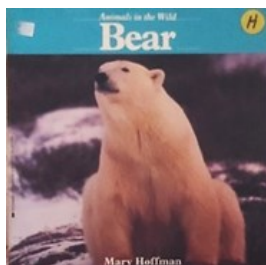
Sleep, Big Bear, Sleep! by Maureen Wright (Scholastic)

Large pleasant enough illustrations, rhyming quatrains, limited text in large font, discuss being tired, hibernation, cute story. Reading level grade 1-2

Learn about hibernation & migration. Have a Teddy Bear Picnic.



Bears porch/patio art



Bear by Mary Hoffman (Animals in the Wild)

Great large photos, Reading level grade 2; series includes penguin, crocodile & alligator, whale & dolphin, kangaroo, koala, turtle & tortoise. 22 pp

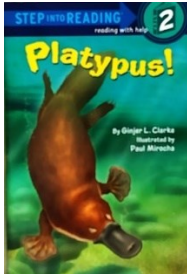


Baby Seal by Aubrey Lang

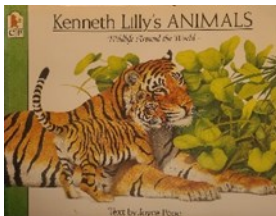
Good photos & text, contents, did you know, index, bios, Nature Babies series, 36 pp. Reading level grade 2 (I take advantage of every opportunity to acquire books for less expense.)



A Koala Grows Up by Rita Golden Gelman
Read-aloud for K-1, grades 2-3 reading level



Platypus! by Ginjer L. Clarke (Step into Reading level 2)
Very limited text in large font, but challenging vocabulary for the very beginning reader. 32 pp, ages 4-6, preK to 1st grade. Reading level Lexile 380. Letter to parents; list of other titles includes Barbie readers, Disney readers, math readers, phonics readers, Thomas the Tank Engine readers, and Write-In readers.



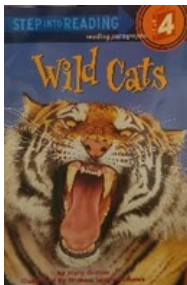
Kenneth Lilly's Animals: Wildlife Around the World, text by Joyce Pope
Excellent illustrations organized by habitats, includes range maps, and scientific names; contents at front, list of facts & figures, index at back. Note to parents at front. Text reading level grades 3-5. Browse & discuss for K.



Panda pet toys
A few book options:
Panda's Playtime by Rosie Greening (I'm a Reader, Grade K)
If You Were a Panda Bear by Wendell and Florence Minor (compares bears) 32 pp
Xander's Panda Party by Linda Sue Park



Wolves Eat by Matt Reher
Great photos, limited text in large font discusses characteristics of wolves, their prey, habitat, food web. Vocabulary & reading strategies at end. Reading level grade 1

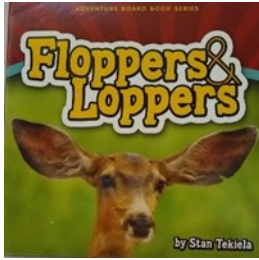


Wild Cats by Mary Batten (Step into Reading, level 4)
Great illustrations & photos, reading level grades 2-3. Browsing & discussion for younger.



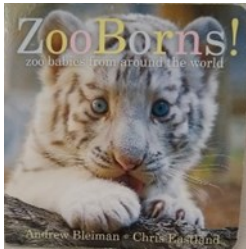
Museum mountain lion, cougar, or puma

tiger toy



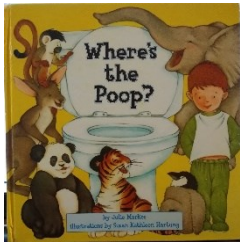
Floppers & Loppers by Stan Tekiela (Adventure Board Book series)

Board Book about various animal ears. Great photos, labeled, along with interesting information even for adults. Jackrabbit, polar bear, bullfrog, opossum, cricket, owl, bats, coyote, beaver, lynx. Additional titles pictured on back cover: Peepers & Peekers, Paws & Claws, Snouts & Sniffers.



ZooBorns! By Andrew Bleiman (Zoo babies from around the world)

Each animal has a name and is from one of the zoos listed at the back. Silhouettes at bottom of page appear to be relative sizes of the animals in the book. Great photos, 1 paragraph per page in large font. Elephant, fox, orangutan, frogmouth bird, hyena, aardvark, ocelot, gorilla, tiger twins, kangaroo, mongoose, sifaka monkey, hippo, wombat, okapi, anteater, beluga whale.



Where's the Poop by Julia Markes

Cute lift the flap book comparing where other animals poop to humans.



Home for a Bunny by Margaret Wise Brown (a Little Golden Book)

Pleasant illustrations, simple repeating text, various animals & homes, med font, grade 1 reading level; list of other Golden Books inside back cover.

Explore other animal homes.



The Old Oak Tree by Marcia Vaughan (Little Celebrations)

Various animals live in the oak tree. Simple text with some repetition. More titles inside back cover.



The Little Creek by Jennifer Ward

Large simple illustrations, read-aloud or browsing, talk about for Primary grades, grade 4-6 reading level. Extra info at the end. 30pp



The Little Island by Margaret Wise Brown and Leonard Weisgard
Beautiful words paint beautiful pictures to go with the nice artwork. Read-aloud for K, reading level grades 1-2.

Below: group post-assessment. *At certain times some ants can fly.
Does the animal have wings, legs/feet, fins? Must it have those to fly, walk/hop, swim?
(eg "flying" squirrels that glide)

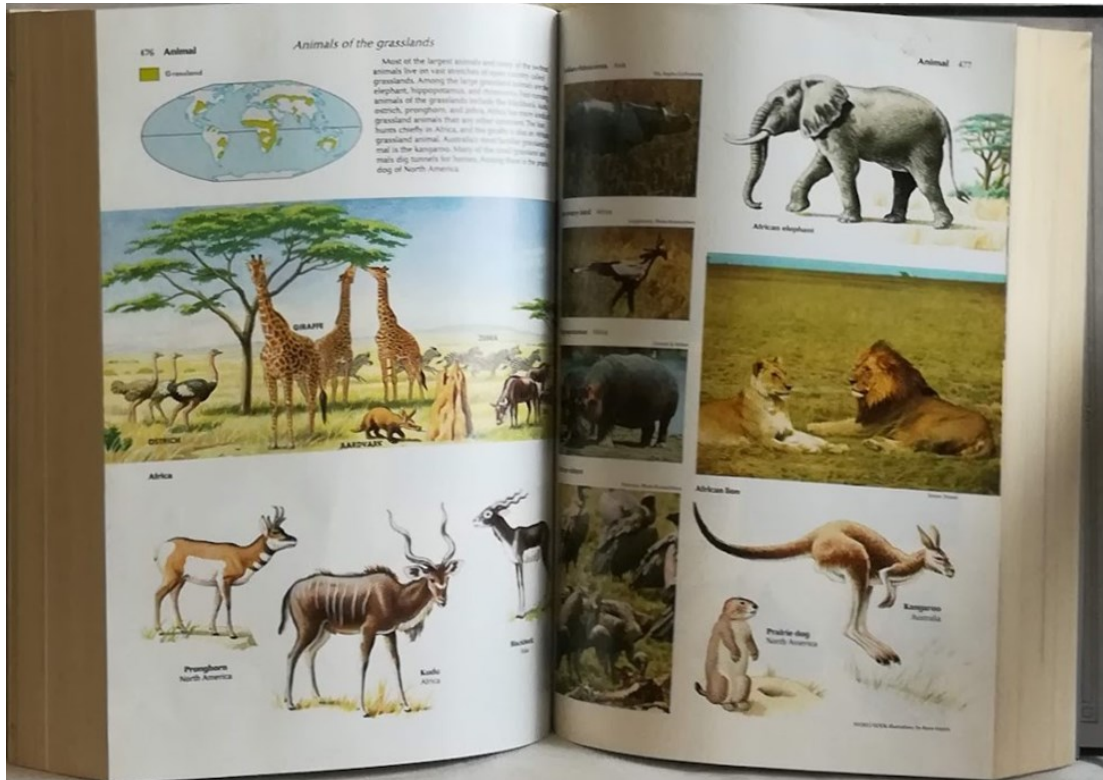
	Can it fly?	Can it walk or hop?	Can it swim?
a fly	✓	✓	
caterpillar		✓	
butterfly	✓	✓	
grasshopper	✓	✓	
bird	✓	✓	✓
fish			✓
spider		✓	
bee	✓	✓	
lady bug	✓	✓	
ant	★	✓	

Habitats

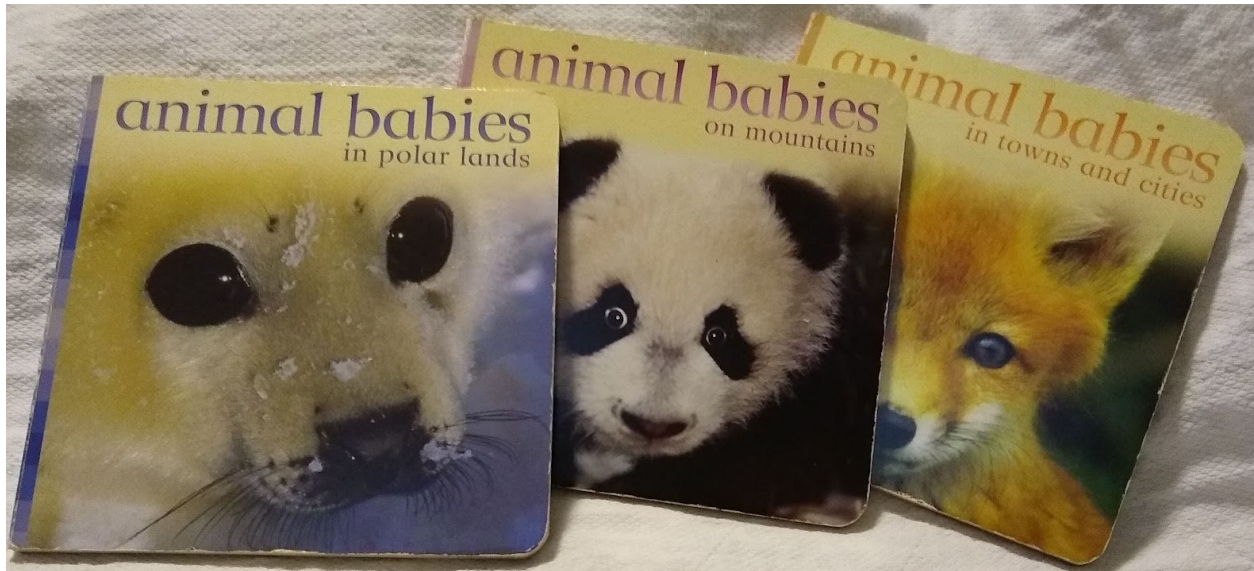
We used to love browsing through the encyclopedias, a good way to pick up knowledge.



Animals of the Polar Regions and Animals of the Prairies, from "A" volume, World Book Encyclopedia
Animals of the grasslands, from the "A" volume of World Book Encyclopedia (see others)



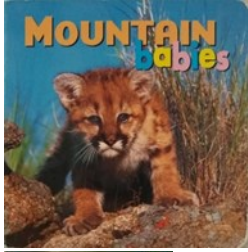
Animal Babies from polar lands, on mountains, and in people towns and cities.



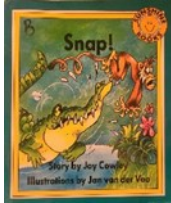
Polar Animals puzzle—note seals are arctic and penguins are from antarctica



Penguins--
a toy &
yard art



Mountain Babies by Kristen McCurry (NorthWord Books for Young Readers) Board Book. Great photos. 1-2 short sentences each page in large, bold font. Some mommas included. Elk calf, wolf pups, mountain lion kitten, bear cub, eagle chicks, pika, raccoon cub, porcupine baby, snowshoe hare, mountain sheep baby,



Snap! By Joy Cowley
A variety of jungle animals pass the word; simple repetitive text. More titles inside back cover.



The Magic School Bus Hops Home: A Book About Animal Habitats (Scholastic) Engaging popular series; nice illustrations, brief text in a med font; reading level grades 2-3.



Puzzles to reinforce understanding—these require a team effort/help for Kindergarteners.





I made a nap time pillow case with this print fabric showing forest animals (which of course would never all be in such close proximity to each other in real life, but it's still fun and instructive). You don't have to say much about it . . . just let it be familiar. On the other hand, you can ask or talk about each animal while settling down to take a nap.

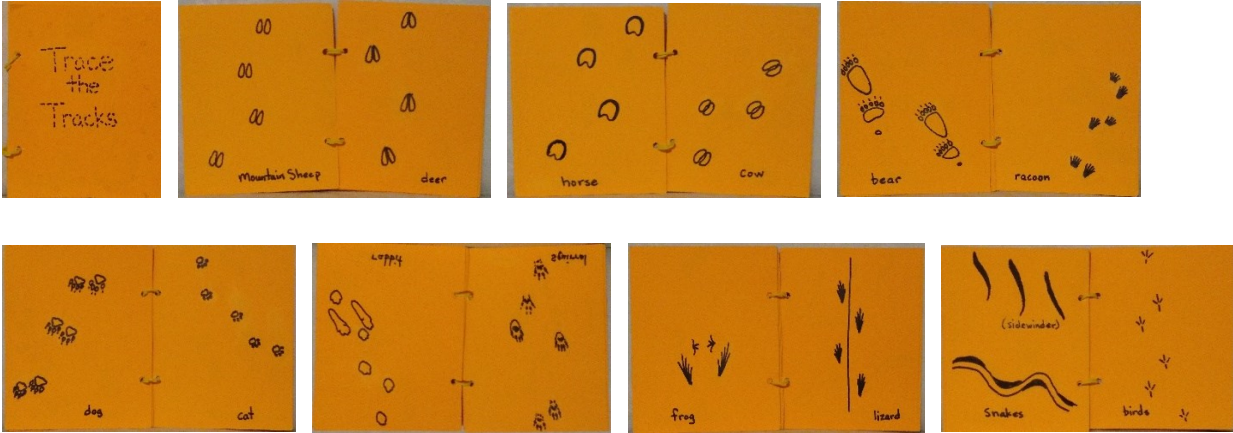
You can find and print habitats from the internet, though it's a rather expensive use of ink. Or you could draw or paint your own, using them as guides. These are useful for playing Zoo Habitats: spread the pictures out as if for a zoo, then take turns putting animal toys or picture cards in the correct habitats. Of course some animals live all over the world, such as spiders and insects. Not all spiders and all insects, naturally.





This wall hanging can be up for a long time before it gets tiresome to look at. The print at the bottom names the animals. I like it especially because it shows the underground.

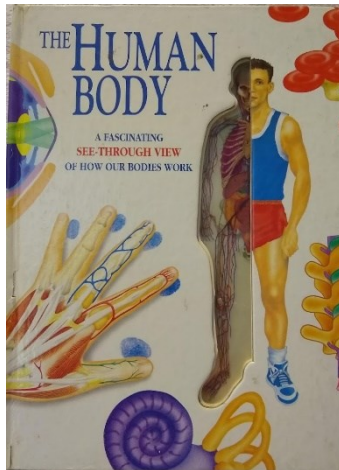
Here's a book I made some years ago, because I couldn't afford to buy one. Compare the tracks. Why is there a line between the lizard's footprints?



Books to buy or borrow:
Tracks in the Snow by Wong Herbert Yee; 32 page picture book limited simple text, ages 2-6
Big Tracks, Little Tracks: Following Animal Prints by Millicent E. Selsam (Let's Read and Find Out Science level 1) Brief text in medium font; 32 pp, read-aloud, AD490 Lexile. More titles, experiments,

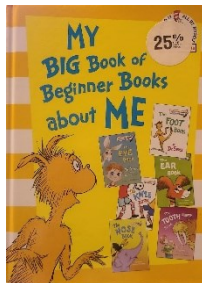
Humans

Our bodies
Our senses
Food
Exercise
Sleep
Illness & injury
Safety

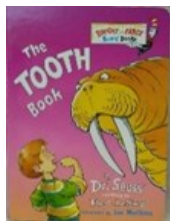


The Human Body: A Fascinating See-Through View of How Our Bodies Work

A nice intro, discussion, and reference for Primary Grades.

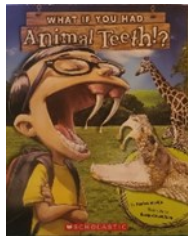


My Big Book of Beginner Books about Me (6 titles: foot, ear, tooth, nose, knee, eye)
Comparative books about various body parts; reading level grade 1.



The Tooth Book by Dr Seuss (Theo LeSieg)

Board Book. Uses of teeth, different kinds of teeth, 1st & 2nd sets, and taking care of them. Appealing illustrations which are not by Dr. Seuss.



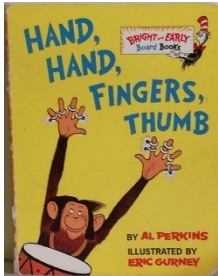
What if You Had Animal Teeth!? By Sandra Markle (Scholastic)

Great comparison of various animal teeth. Engaging illustrations, brief text in a med font, reading level grade 3. Good for browsing and discussion for younger children.



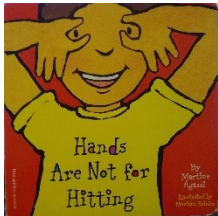
Eyes & Nose, Fingers & Toes (Sesame Beginnings)

Board Book. An action book in rhymes. Parenting tips and other titles on back cover. At the Zoo; Bubbles, Bubbles; Nighty-Night. More for babies and toddlers than Kindergarteners, but if siblings or friends are doing the actions together, it can be a nice group activity for children of different ages.



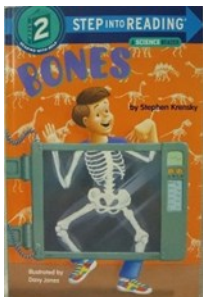
Hand, Hand, Fingers, Thumb by Al Perkins (Bright and Early Board Books)

Engaging bold rhyme and rhythm board book. Delightful to adults as much to children.



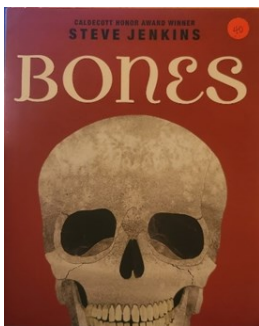
Hands Are Not for Hitting by Martine Agassi

Delightful board book.



Bones by Stephen Krensky (Step into Reading 2, Reading with Help)

“Preschool—Grade 1. Does your child recognize familiar words on sight and sound out new words with help? Step 2 is just right. Basic Vocabulary, Short Sentences, Simple Stories”. Fun facts, function, symbols, mention of joints and muscles, breaks, fossils, boneless creatures. Great as a read aloud for pre-readers. Additional titles pictured inside back cover. Wish for: Whose Feet? Probably about tracks, footprints.



Bones by Steve Jenkins

Large, excellent comparative illustration of skeletal systems of humans and animals including foldouts. Not too wordy, useful as a browsing & discussion vehicle for all ages.



x-ray of a hand

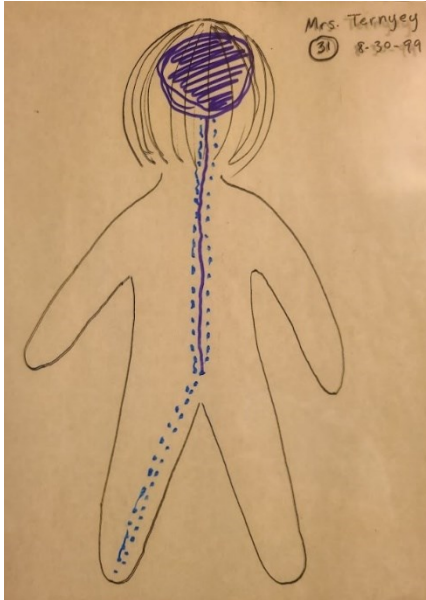
No need for a Kindergartener to memorize any details except the most basic. But it's valuable for them to see the whole skeleton.



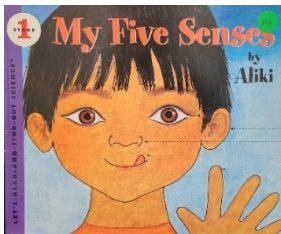


Jessica's X-Ray by Pat Zonta

Excellent story of a child's experience getting an x-ray, dealing with fear, actual x-ray pages, great explanations about growth, CAT-scans, bones (including the skull), teeth, ultrasounds, MRI. Q&A about x-rays at the end, and labeled pictures of the x-ray pages. Brief simple text in large font, grades 1-2 reading level. Great read-aloud/discussion.



1. Draw a simple human-like figure (you can use a gingerbread or boy/girl cookie cutter if needed). Draw hair on it as if it's the back of the person. Use a plastic sheet overlay to show where the brain would be.
2. Draw a line from the brain down to about the hips, to show where the spinal cord would be.
3. Ask the children to wiggle their toes. Have a child stand backwards in front and point out how the thought starts in the brain, goes down the spinal cord, then down the leg to the toes.
4. Explain that if you stub your toe, the pain travels back up to the brain.
5. Draw a dotted line on the plastic sheet to show how messages travel from the brain down to the toes (and everywhere in the body, of course), and back.
6. You can liken it to electricity traveling through the power lines. What happens if the powerlines are broken by a branch in a storm? No electricity can get to your home.

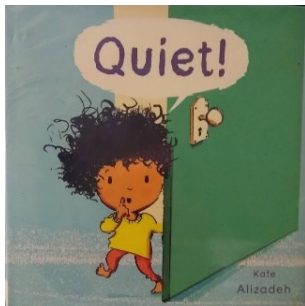


My Five Senses by Aliko (Let's Read and Find Out Science, stage 1) DRA 14, 1st grade



The old eye chart can be fun to play around with, play eye doctor, practice letters, become aware if there's a problem. Not a substitute for regular eye exams.

Didn't we love these cool sunglasses after a visit with the eye doctor? Keep them for a unit on light or optics.



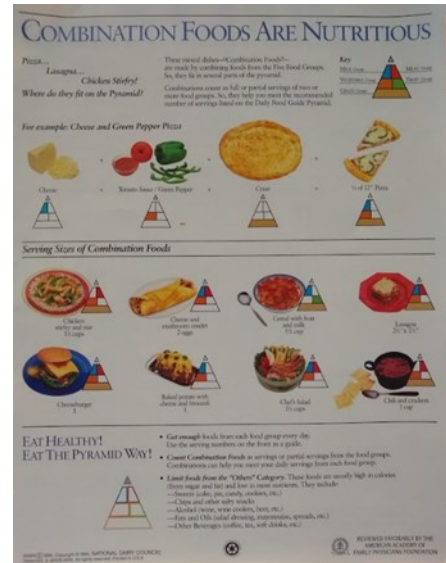
Quiet! by Kate Alizadeh

Pay attention to all the sounds of the day. At last, the quiet of the night. Poetically told story in large font. 2nd grade reading level, fun to share with younger children.

- Experiment with different sounds, including music. You can use a tuning fork or a stretched rubber band to show the vibrations associated with sound.
- Experiment with different tastes and smells (esp in the kitchen). Which do you like best? Salty, sweet, sour, oily, spicy...



The old nutrition guide—simple enough for children to grasp. Nice clear photos. You might think of posting one to help kids decide what food to snack on or to help you decide what to have for dinner. You could have children draw pictures, cut out grocery ads or pictures from magazines to make cards for playing a game like “Go Fish” (let the children decide what to call the game).

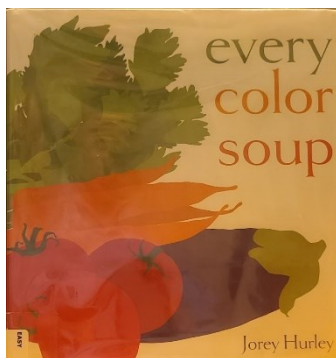


Another idea is to let children draw or paste pictures on a paper plate for their favorite meal, making sure to include appropriate foods from each food group.



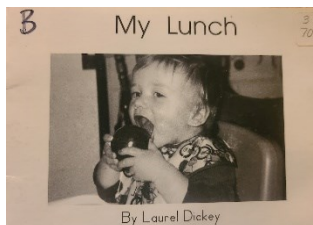
Made from Milk by Susan Ternyey (2004)

I made 2 versions of this little book, one with space for children to paste pictures from grocery ads, and one that already includes all the pictures. Choose the version that fits what you want your children to accomplish, such as practice cutting and pasting. Pattern for cut & paste under Literature, <https://www.learninglab.site/the-arts>



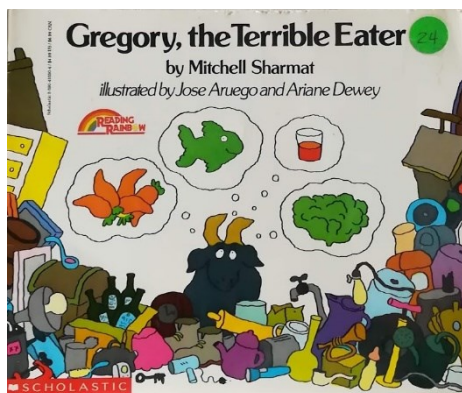
Every Color Soup by Jorey Hurley

This simple book is about color and healthy eating. Includes a recipe, which I adapted to what I had on hand.



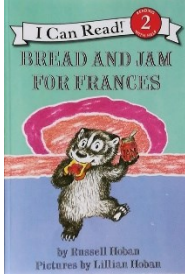
My Lunch by Laurel Dickey

Simple beginner reading. B&W photos.



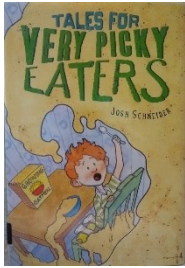
Gregory, the Terrible Eater by Mitchell Sharmat (Scholastic)

Entertaining story. 32 pp, interest from age 2+, reading level grades 2-3, Lexile 490.



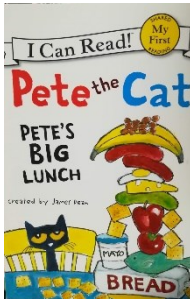
Bread and Jam For Frances by Russell Hoban

(I Can Read! Level 2, reading with help—116 titles at least, some about Frances)
48 pp in this abridged edition; repetitive text in large font. Interest level ages 3-6; reading level 1-3, Lexile AD490



Tales for Very Picky Eaters by Josh Schneider

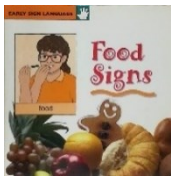
Divided into 5 short chapters, or tales. For instance, in the first tale father cheerfully gives options that make broccoli sound tasty in comparison. Fun humor.



Pete the Cat: Pete's Big Lunch created by James Dean

(I Can Read! My First Shared Reading, 127 titles)

Simple entertaining story with limited text in large font. Popular character figures in many stories. 32 pp, interest level 3-6 years, reading level grade 1; Lexile 290.



Food Signs (Early Sign Language)

Great photos and diagrams. Simple board book. 24 pp, for ages 3-5 years (and those who want to start simple & slow with learning sign language), PreK to Kindergarten could learn to recognize the words with practice. This book can be used to talk about food groups, nutrition, etc.

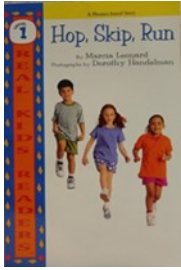


Another use for grocery ads and magazine pictures. Learn about vegetables/fruits (or all foods), as well as means of preserving them. Children can cut and paste, adults or older children can label (either before or after).

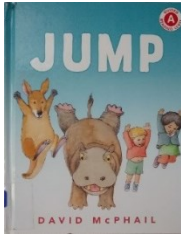


Milk products—made from milk (see booklet above)

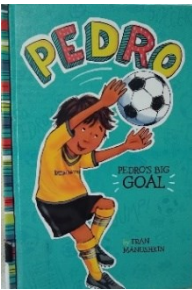
Explore different ways to preserve foods: refrigeration, freezing, packaging, canning, pickling, salting, smoking, canning, drying, fermenting . . . give each a taste.



Hop, Skip, Run by Marica Leonard (Real Kids Readers, Level 1 Beginning to Read) “A Phonics-based Story”. Note to Parents at front, more explanations and suggestions at the back. Great photos, uncluttered. Simple, repetitive sentences/vocabulary. Engaging story, not without humor. Additional titles listed back cover. Extensions: get exercise, what do you like to do, practice. Exercise is important, but so is rest. Be aware of others and be polite.



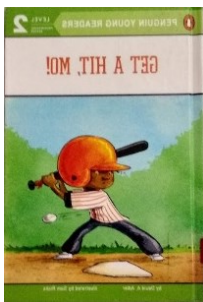
Jump by David McPhail (Guided Reading level A—Levels A-D for K-1st grade) Simple story starts factual and moves into fanciful; engaging pictures. 3-4 word sentences, much repetition. When it comes to “A cow can jump” repeat the rhyme “Hey Diddle, Diddle”, and after this story, read an illustrated retelling of “Hey Diddle, Diddle” and other stories that relate to this story. Practice jumping like different kinds of animals. See who can jump highest, furthers, fastest, etc. (keep the competition light and fun). You can also play “Do as I’m Doing” . . .



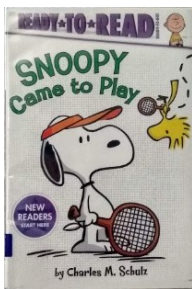
Pedro’s Big Goal by Fran Manushkin

Also, Pedro the Ninja by Fran Manushkin

Pedro signs up for Karate class; 32 pp, grades K-2, Lexile 480, 1st grade.



Get a Hit, Mo! By David A. Adler (Penguin Young Readers Level 2—guided reading G—“Progressing Reader, Longer sentences, Simple dialogue, Picture and context clues, More in-depth plot development, Nonfiction and fiction”). Suggestions for parents at the beginning. Simple, brief text in a large font. Mo is younger and smaller than the others on his team. Mo is feeling unsuccessful, but watches to try to learn from others, still doesn’t connect with the ball. He is last up in the last inning. Two strikes—then as he turns to hear coach, the ball hit his bat, to runners make it in, and his team wins!



Snoopy Came to Play by Charles M. Schulz (Ready-to-Read, Ready-to-Go! Stellar Starter! “Sight words, Word families, Rhythm, rhyme, and repetition”). Info for caregivers and word chart at the beginning, questions at the end. Very simple sentences in very large font, one per page. Statements, questions, exclamations. Adorable characters/pictures, humor. Working through challenges, friendship, finding alternatives.

More books to check out:

My First Book of Basketball: A Rookie Book (A Sports Illustrated Kids Book) good photos, simple text

Baseball Buzz by CC Joven (Sports Illustrated Kids Starting Line Readers) 32 pp, Lexile 230, 1st grade.

Soccer Score by CC Joven (Sports Illustrated Kids Starting Line Readers) 32 pp, Lexile 210, 1st grade.

Good Sports: Elliot Mack, Quarterback by Alisha Gabriel (Good Sports) 32 pp, ages 5-8, Guided Reading level K, Lexile 430, 1st grade; more titles include ice hockey, basketball, volleyball.

Animal Action ABC by Karen Pandell

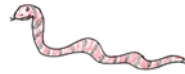
I can walk—fast, or slow—
Can you?



I can run—fast, or slow. Can you?



I can slither—fast or slow.
Can you?



I can swim—fast, or slow.
Can you?



I can fly—high or low.



Can you?

I can hop—high or low.



Can you?

I can jump—high or low.



Can you?

I can climb—up and down.
Can you?



I can scurry
all around ...



Can you?

For a group, one person can hold up a picture like these, and the children in a circle pretend to be the animal, moving in a clockwise fashion together, perhaps accompanied by music.

Rainy Day PE: a leader calls out or demonstrates the moves, the group counts to 5, 10, 15, or 20 as appropriate while they make the moves in place or within limits (leave plenty room between children). Each day can be a different kind of exercise, such as . . . (you can get ideas on internet, or find videos for kids to move with) . . .

Calisthenics—squat, jump, push-ups, touch toes (cross body, too), twist with arms out or in, windmill arms, sit-ups, march in place with knees high, bicycle laying down, etc.

Aerobics—jogging, stool stepping (step up and down on a stool), jumping jacks, etc.

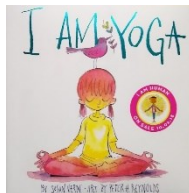
Dancing—twirl, side steps, shimmy-shake, clap high/low/side, moonwalk, robot, tiptoe, etc.

Gymnastics—walk on a line (or 2x4), somersault, (cartwheel is for outside), etc.

Martial arts moves—thrust each arm forward by turns, turn to the side side kicks, etc.

Weights—you can use cans, bags of rice or beans, potatoes to lift high, low, hand to hand, etc.

Yoga—breathe, balance, slow controlled moves, develop balance as well as strength, etc.



I am Yoga by Susan Verde

The main theme presents yoga as a way of calming one's feelings. At the back of the book are various poses. 32 pp, grades K-3 (read-aloud for the younger children).



Outdoor exercise: relays/races, ride bikes, skate, playground at the park, hula hoops, hop/skip/jump/run, hopscotch, jump rope, tag, kick the can, ball games, obstacle course, tree climb, unstructured play!

At left: cushion for indoor exercises, puzzle piece mat could be used indoors as well, for cushioning or if attached to floor, for marking sitting spots or cake walks. Kaleidoscope in + out.

Even if kids can't do hula hoop, they can use it to jump in and out of as it lays on the ground. Kites are great, if you can get them in the air. Other ideas . . . balloon volley, soda pop bottle bowling (a little water in the bottom of the bottles helps to stabilize them; use a soccer ball or similar to bowl them over.



Play dough, balloons—always handy to have with little kids, beside bubbles and sidewalk chalk



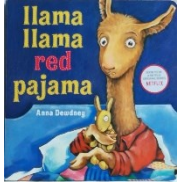
Hiking
rough sketch by ST



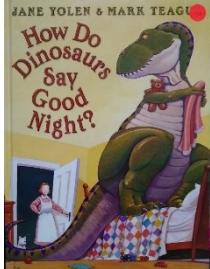
Family fun and exercise: kayaking



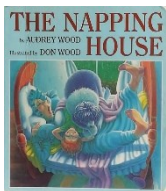
Fun exercise at the playground.



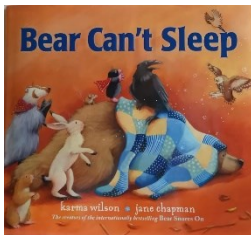
Llama, Llama, Red Pajama by Anna Dewdney
Cute little board book about bedtime.



How do Dinosaurs Say Good Night? By Jane Yolen & Mark Teague
Entertaining story and illustrations.



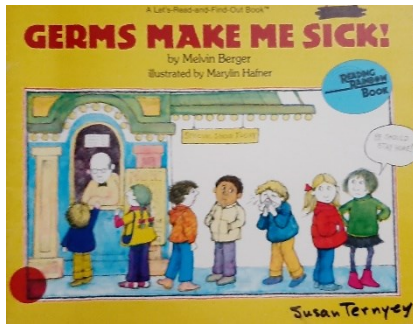
The Napping House by Audrey Wood
Board book. Entertaining story and illustrations.



Bear Can't Sleep by Karma Wilson (1 of 9 stories about this Bear)
Fun story. Bear's friends try to help him settle into hibernation. 40 pp, limited text each page in large font, rhyming quatrains. Interest ages 4-8 years, reading level grades 1-3; Lexile AD510. Pictured is the board book edition.

See also

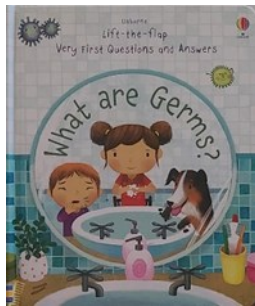
Biscuit by Alyssa Satin Capucilli (My First I Can Read, at least 127 titles, inclu several about Biscuit)
It's bedtime for Biscuit, but he keeps finding excuses to stay up. 32 pp, interest ages 3-6 years (and parents). Reading level grade 1, Lexile 190.



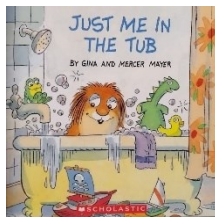
Germs Make Me Sick! By Melvin Berger (A Let's Read and Find Out Book)

A great book for talking about germs with Primary grades.

Practice handwashing—count to 20 or sing the ABC song.

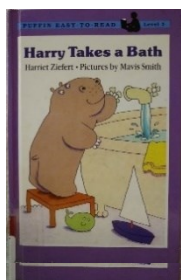


What Are Germs? (Usborne Lift-the-Flap Very First Questions and Answers)
Board book, simple explanations and illustrations, limited text. Read-aloud for the young. Lift the flap format allows for quite comprehensive coverage.



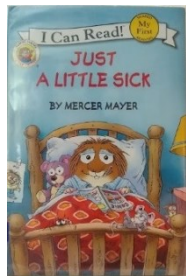
Just Me in the Tub by Gina and Mercer Mayer (Little Critter)

Not my favorite character, but this series has a lot of great titles/stories. 24 pp, Interest ages 2-6, reading level Lexile AD560.



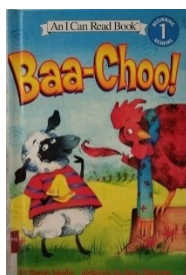
Harry Takes a Bath by Harriet Ziefert (Puffin East to Read, or, Penguin Young Readers, Level 2)

“Level 2: Ages 5-9, Beginning to Read.” Letter to Parents and Educators at the front explains in more detail about Level 2 reading. Divided into 3 parts or chapters: In the Tub, Out of the Tub, Clean Up. Harry Hippo leaves a clean bathroom. Opportunity for discussion of bathroom etiquette, family rules/expectations, and health issues.



Just a Little Sick by Mercer Mayer (I Can Read! My First Shared Reading)

“Ideal for sharing with emergent readers.” Little Critter thinks it will be fun to be just a little sick, and stay home from school. By the end of the story he decides that being just a little sick isn't fun after all, and is anxious to go to school tomorrow.

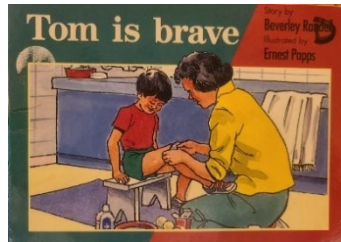
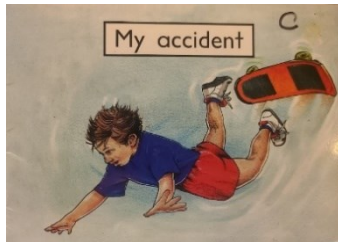


Baa-Choo! By Sarah Weeks (An I Can Read Book, Level 1 Beginning Reading)

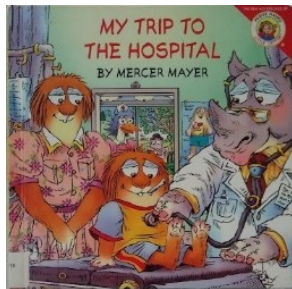
Letter to parents at front explaining reading levels in this series. “Beginning Reading: short sentences, familiar words, and simple concepts for children eager to read on their own.” Pick out words that rhyme. Lamb can't seem to finish his sneeze. His friends all try to help. At last success in a big way. Fun way to introduce sneezing etiquette and health.



Itchy, Itchy Chicken Pox by Grace Maccarone (Hellow Reader! Level 1, Preschool – Grade 1) Note to Parents with suggestions, front of book. Very limited, rhyming text in large font. Sympathetic treatment of a common childhood experience. Illustrations capture the itchy twitchy feelings. Treatment and recuperation. Additional titles listed inside back cover: preschool to grade 1, K-2, grades 1-2, and grades 2-3. Discuss other common childhood illnesses/diseases and how to cope.

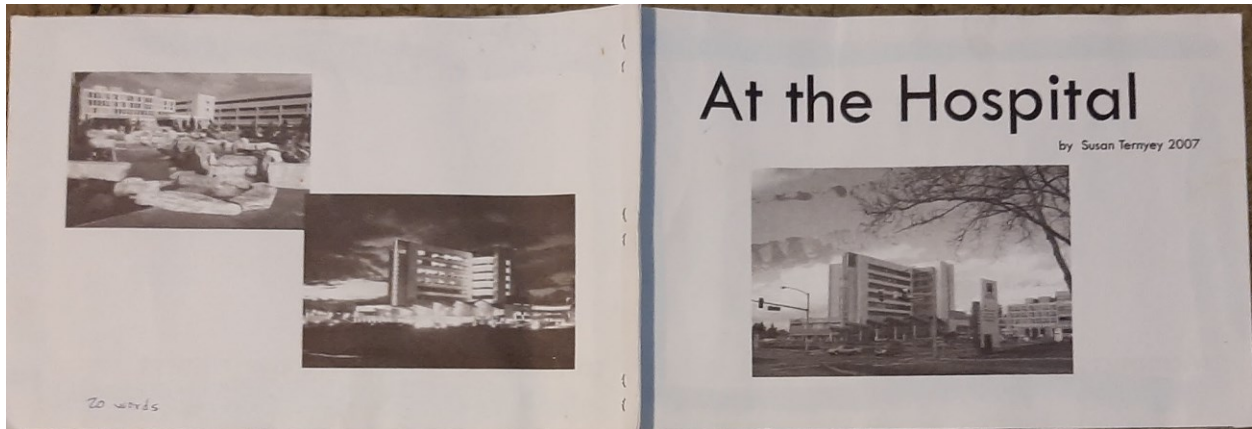


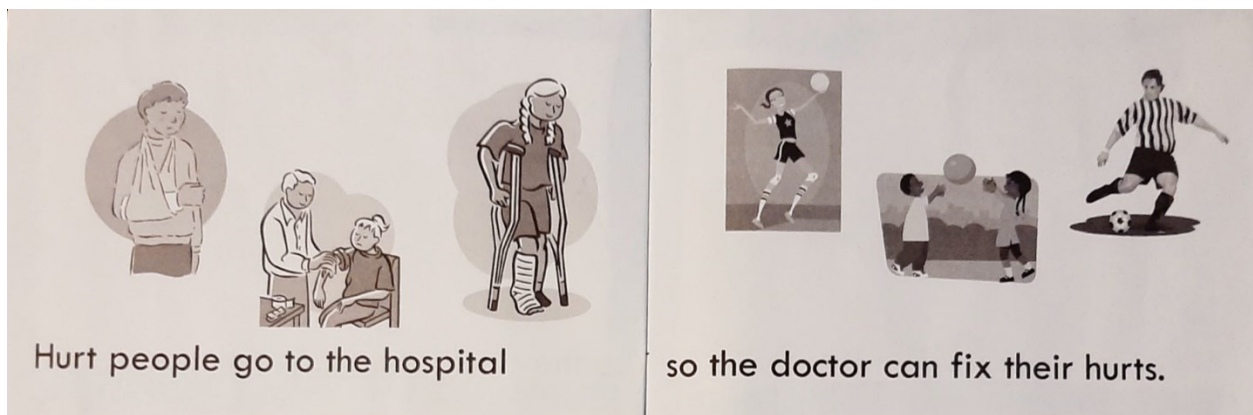
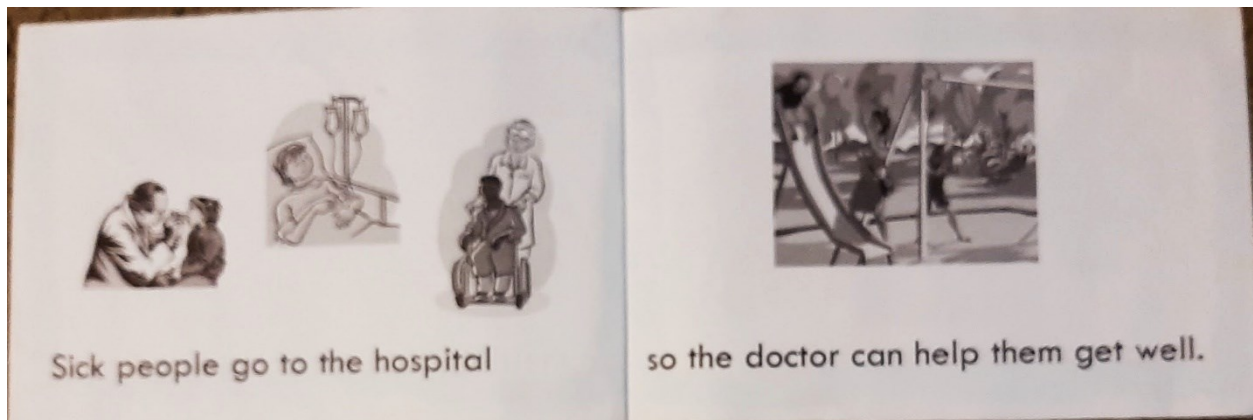
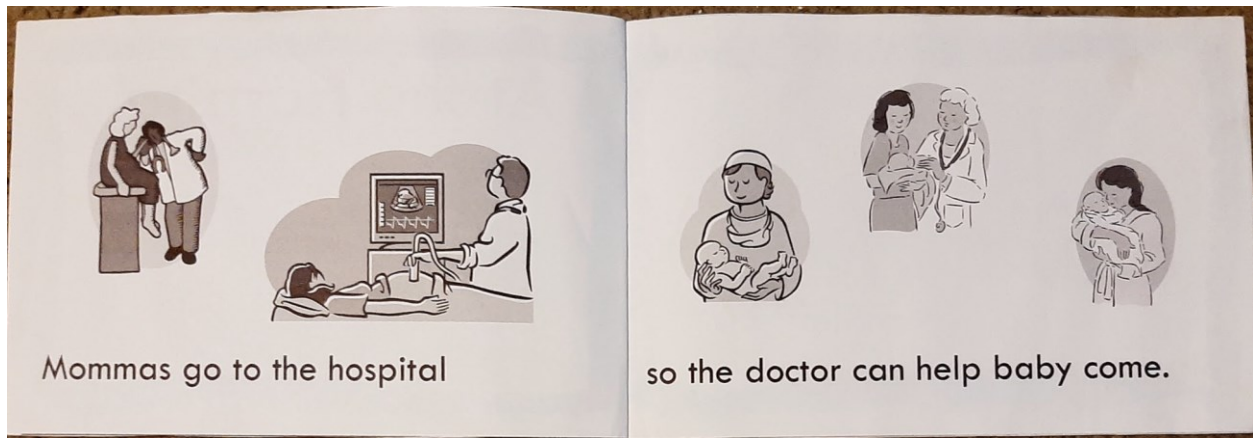
My Accident; and Tom is Brave by Beverley Randell; both very simple beginning readers.



My Trip to the Hospital by Mercer Mayer

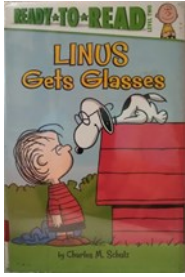
Little Critter breaks a leg, and must go to the hospital in an ambulance. “Mom came with me in the ambulance. I held her hand because she looked a little scared.” A good book to allay fears about going to the hospital. About 2nd grade reading, but a great read-aloud for younger children.





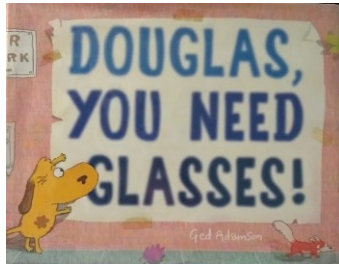
Additional titles of interest:

- [The Berenstain Bears Go to the Doctor](#) by Stan Berenstain (First Time Books) 32 pp, Lexile 620
- [Going to the Doctor](#) by Anne Civardi (First Experiences) 16 pp, ages 5-6 years
- [Corduroy Goes to the Doctor](#) by Don Freeman, Board book 14 pp
- [Dora Goes to the Doctor/Dora Goes to the Dentist](#) (Randoms House) 32 pp
- [Just Going to the Dentist](#) by Mercer Mayer (Little Critter) 24 pp, PreK-grade 2, AD500 Lexile
- [Curious George Goes to the Hospital](#) by H. A. and Margret Rey, 48 pp, reading level 520 Lexile



Linus Gets Glasses by Charles M. Schulz (Ready to Read, Level 2)

“Level Two—Superstar Reader! Longer sentences, simple chapters, high-interest vocabulary words.” Linus literally runs into problems of poor sight. He goes to the eye doctor, gets glasses, and discovers how amazing the world is. Very positive, and humorous.



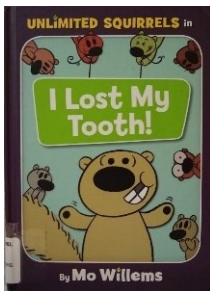
Douglas, You Need Glasses! By Ged Adamson

Douglas the dog's near-sightedness is a problem. Fun story about needing and getting glasses. Photos of real kids with glasses at the end. The Author writes from experience of needing glasses when he was young. Limited text in large font. 2nd grade reading, but fun to share with younger kids. Good opportunity to talk about what is humorous about each incident and notice details.



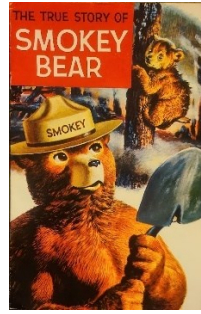
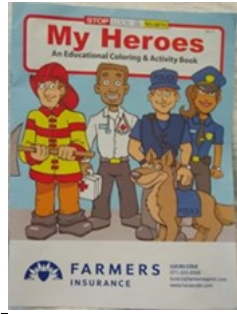
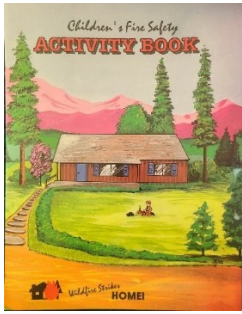
I Can See Just Fine by Eric Barclay

Cute story about a girl who doesn't want to admit she needs glasses. After going through all the steps, she finds out how much better she can see with them. Humor, and lots of details in the illustrations to notice. Brief text in large readable font. 1st to 2nd grade reading level, share with younger children. Might be a good one to share with elderly loved ones 😊.



I Lost My Tooth! By Mo Willems (Unlimited Squirrels)

Contents, book is divided into 7 brief parts or chapters that move very fast. Very silly read aloud for K-1, kids losing teeth. Humor, hyperbole, riddles, a-corny jokes, etc, and some truths about teeth. Additional series and titles by the author pictured inside back cover: Unlimited Squirrels series, Elephant and Piggie books, and The Pigeon books.

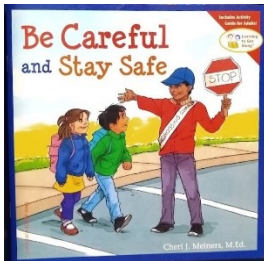


Children's Fire Safety Activity Book—this particular one may require extra help
The True Story of Smokey Bear was published by the US Forest Service, not sure if they still do

Various business people, government entities, libraries, and other give out free safety booklets for kids. Some of the activities in this booklet are too advanced for Kindergarten, but you can talk about the pictures anyway, to reinforce safety rules. Kids can then color. Older kids can trace so the pictures can be preserved for the next child.

US Forest Service makes learning and coloring pages for kids. See
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/learn/coloring-pages>
<https://smokeybear.com/en/for-educators/elementary-resources>
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/learn/kids>

There are various sites that offer Smokey the Bear coloring pages, Google “smokey the bear coloring pages free download”.

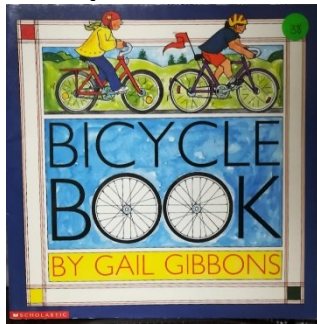


Be Careful and Stay Safe by Cheryl J. Neubersm, M.Ed.
 Simple realistic illustrations, limited text in a large font. Some words more sophisticated than early readers may be able to handle on their own. 40 pp, appropriate for ages 4-6; AD520 Lexile.

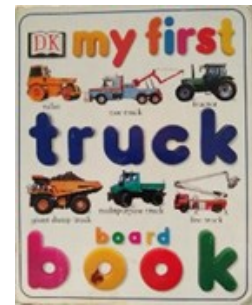


Collect various helpful pamphlets addressing children's health and safety—keep them all together in a binder, drawer, somewhere easily accessed—out of the way, but where you won't forget them. (Or, pay a lot of money for a book.) Teach them to your child. Get poison stickers and attach them to household poisons. (which should always be out of reach of children, but even medicines are poison if consumed in quantities).

Transportation, Technology, & Tools

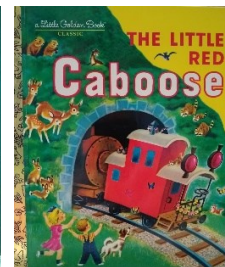
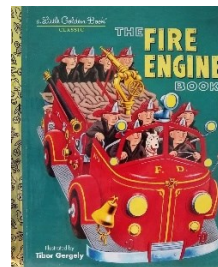
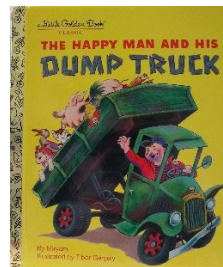
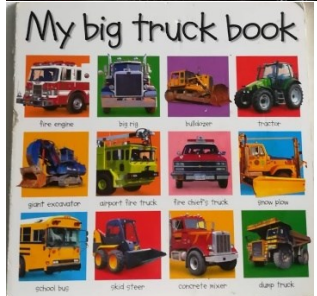


Bicycle Book by Gail Gibbons



My First Truck Board Book (DK)

Great detailed and labeled photos. Excellent for children interested in trucks, not just toddlers. Excellent source for drawing.



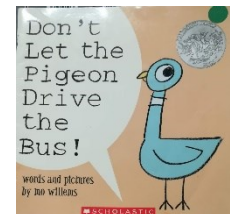
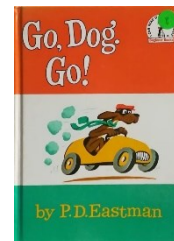
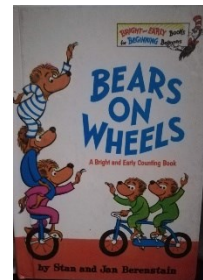
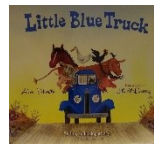
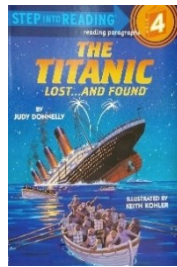
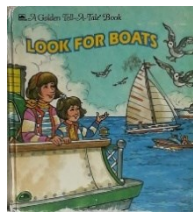
My big truck book, large board book with great photos, a variety of large vehicles.

My Book of Things That Go! (Crayola) age 2+

The Happy Man and His Dump Truck by Miryam (Golden Book classic)

The Fire Engine Book (a Little Golden Book classic)

The Little Red Caboose (a Little Golden Book classic)



Super Ships coloring & Activity Book (Creative Child Press)

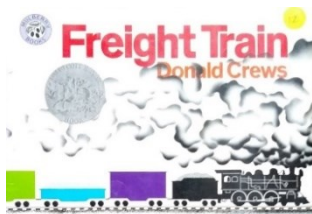
Look for Boats (A Golden Tell-a-Tale Book)

The Titanic: Lost ... And Found by Judy Donnelly (Step into Reading level 4, reading paragraphs)

Trains by Gail Gibbons (Scholastic)

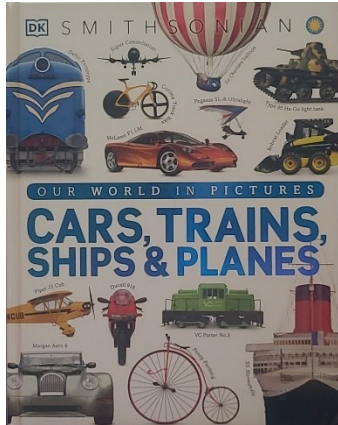
Freight Train by Donald Crews (Mulberry Books), Caldecott Honor Book; DRA 12

Two Little Trains by Margaret Wise Brown; DRA 16

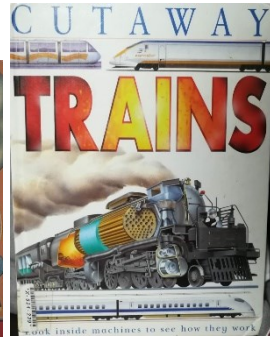
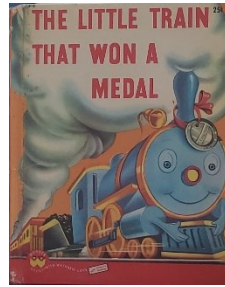
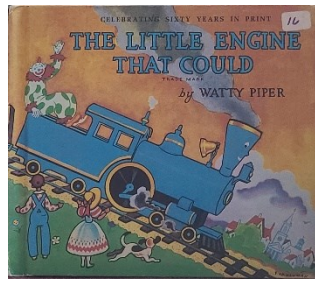


Below: train cake mold





Cars, Trains, Ships & Planes (DK Smithsonian; Our World in Pictures)
 Browsing & reference book with great photos & info, historic to current.
 Contents, timeline, glossary & index.

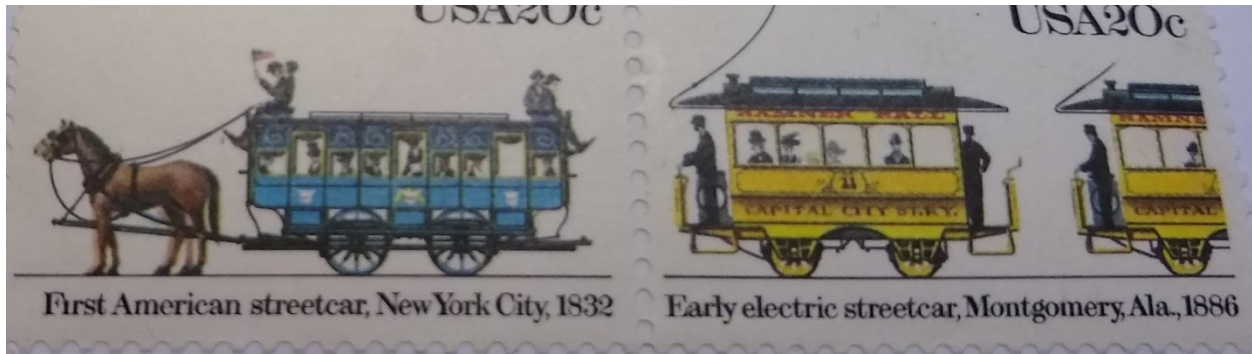


The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper

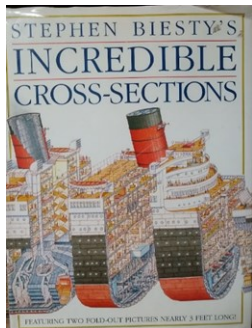
Classic retro 1930,1945 etc. Delivering Christmas toys & food, train has a breakdown; after 3-4 refusals, Along comes a friendly little blue engine who chugs uphill with the familiar “I think I can” refrain

The Little Train That Won a Medal (Wonder Books)

Retro 1947 story, little guy saves the day. Grade 2 reading level. List of Wonderbooks inside back cover.

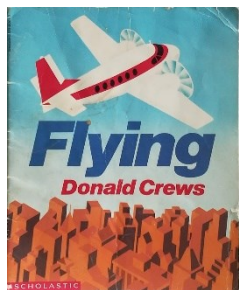


American Streetcars, 1832 & 1886 (US 20 cent stamps)



Incredible Cross-Sections by Stephen Biesty

An excellent browsing and reference book—you don’t have to take it in all at once: there are plenty of details to make it interesting to look at over and over. Children can learn a lot just by seeing.

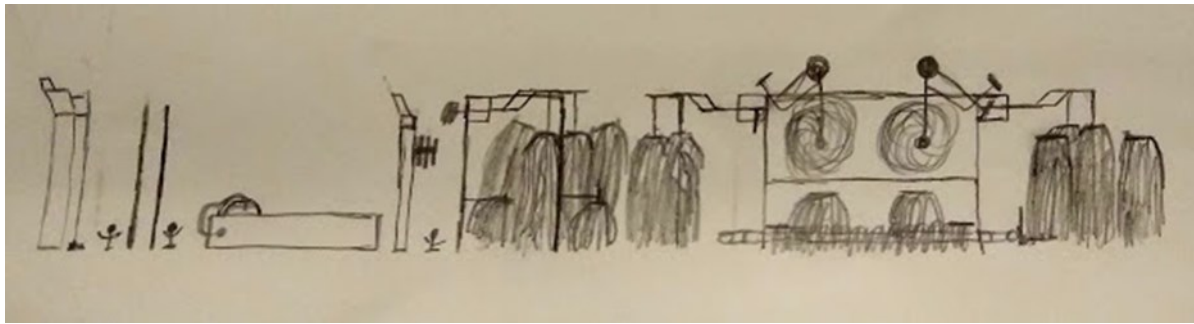


The Airplane Alphabet Book by Jerry Pallotta

This is not a beginning reader.
 Browsing, discussing...
 32 pp, reading level 660 Lexile.



Below: car wash drawn by LMG, much older than Kindergarten. Younger children learn very much from older children, and it is valuable for the older ones to share and talk about what they know, essentially becoming teachers, which reinforces their own learning, understanding, knowledge.



Retro truck stamps, transportation stencils, very simple transportation puzzle, transpo cookie cutters. Ship stamps, more cookie cutters that can be used to trace or cut other foods than cookies.



Toy car towns can build creativity and imagination, both important for engineering, invention, etc.

Sort by emergency vehicles, colors, number of wheels, toys, age-related, historic, work vehicles...



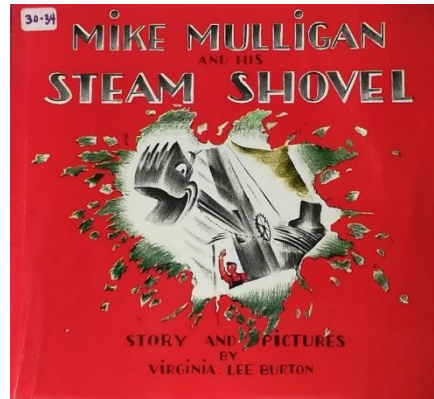
You can play transportation games while traveling...who can spot ... (some category)?



How has technology changed in 2000 years? In 1000 years? In 100 years, in 10 years?
Think about transportation, communication, tools, household appliances, machines . . .



Old flip phone
Laptop



Check out:

Inventors Who Changed the World by Heidi Poelman (People Who Changed the World) 20 pp Board Book, for ages 4-9,

Oh, the Things They Invented!: All About Great Inventors by Bonnie Worth (Cat in the Hat's Learning Library) 48pp, for ages 5-8, grades K-3; Lexile NC900 (grade 4-5)

Have You Thanked an Inventor Today? By Patrice McLaurin; 36 pp, for ages 4-7, reading level Lexile 810, grade 3

Inventions: A Visual Encyclopedia (DK) browsing book for Primary grades

Gary and the Great Inventors: It's Laundry Day! By Akura Marshall; 27 pp, first African American patent holder

Now & Ben: The Modern Inventions of Benjamin Franklin by Gene Barretta; 40 pp, grades K-4, Lexile 640

Thomas Edison: Lighting the Way by Lori Haskins Houran (I Can Read! Level 2)

Nikola Tesla by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara (Little People, Big Dreams, 83) 32 pp, for ages 4-7

Listen Up!: Alexander Graham Bell's Talking Machine by Monica Kulling (Step into Reading level 3)

Alexander Graham Bell by Barbara Kramer (National Geographic Readers level 2) 32 pp, for ages 5-8

Eat My Dust! Henry Ford's First Race by Monica Kulling (Step into Reading level 3)

First Flight: The Story of Tom Tate and the Wright Brothers by George Shea (I Can Read level 4)

The Boo-Boos That Changed the World: A True Story About an Accidental Invention by Barry Wittenstein

Action!: How Movies Began by Meghan McCarthy; 48 pp, for grades K-3, Lexile AD870 (grade 4)

Saving the Day: Garrett Morgan's Life-Changing Invention of the Traffic Signal by Karyn Parsons; 48 pp

For ages 4-8; brief rhyming text.

Elon Musk: A Kid's Book About Inventions by Mary Nhin (Mini Movers and Shakers) 35 pp

Albert Einstein by Mary Nhin (Mini Movers and Shakers) 39 pp



Smash Trash! by Laura Driscoll (Step into Reading, Level 1 Ready to Read)

Letter to Parents explaining series reading levels. Based on Disney Pixar animated film Wall-E. Great text for beginners, with rhyming, repetition, and presumably a story they are familiar with and interested in.

Give children opportunities to use, become familiar with various tools--with instruction & help.



Above: measuring time, temp, blood pressure. Kitchen tools are simple machines.

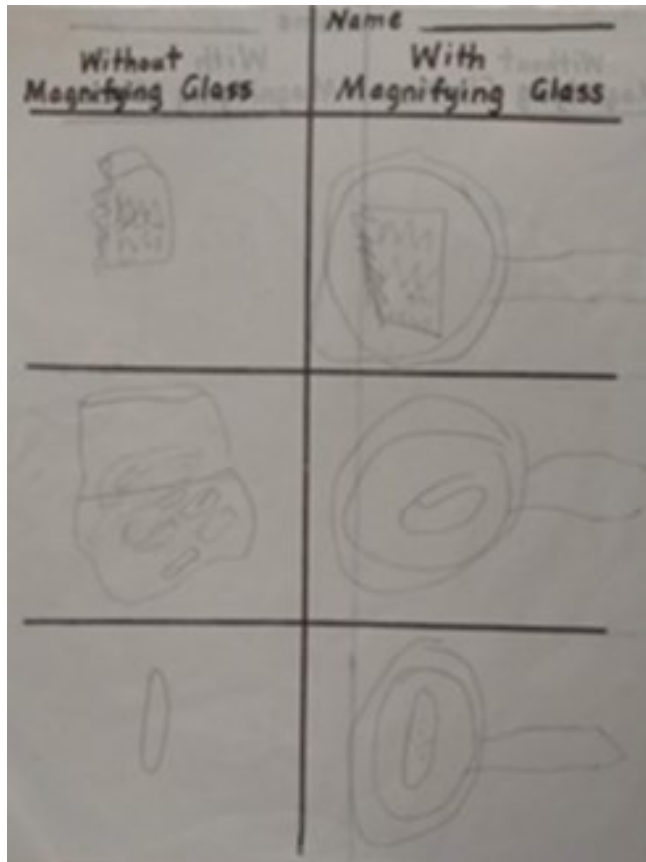


Kindergarteners don't need to make an in-depth study and memorize the three kinds of levers, but they can certainly see and try using different kinds of simple tools and machines, things just around the house and playground. These cards about simple machines were at an educational toy store.

Simple Machines:

1. Lever
2. Wheel/axle
3. Inclined plane
4. Wedge
5. Screw
6. Pulley

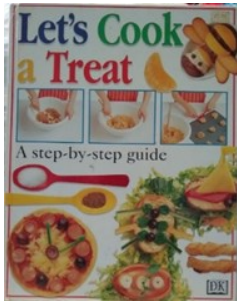
Check out playground simple machines, such as the teeter totter (lever), merry-go-round (wheel & axle), slide (inclined plane) . . . Look for simple machines around the house.



Have fun with a magnifying glass! You can easily make a similar chart in half a minute by hand—it doesn't have to be fancy, but you can use a ruler if it's important to you to have straight lines. Look at 3 different things, drawing what it looks like without and with a magnifying glass. If drawing is too much a frustration for your child, you can let him use tools, such as tracing the magnifying glass, or tracing a glass for the circle and a knife or popsicle stick for the handle. The first item might be printed words from a book or other textual material. The next might be a small object or piece of food that shows texture. Let the child choose at least one of the objects.

Kitchen Science

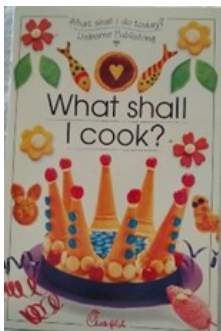
Familiarity with cooking/baking is not only fun and builds relationship bonds, it's a valuable introduction to math (counting, volume, fractions...) and science (measuring and observing chemical changes, as well as the growth of yeast). As you eat, note the differences in smell and taste, even sound. Additionally, texture (which with color, shape, and decorating relates to art). Flour is fine, meal is grainy, other particles are small, medium, large . . .



Let's Cook a Treat: A step-by-step guide by Helen Drew & Angela Wilkes (DK)
Although this is written for a reader, every young cook needs an adult involved in the process. For younger children, the adult involvement will be greater. Recipes: sandwiches, potato boats, pizza, pastries, drinks, ambrosia, and ice cream sundaes. Large clear photos of the ingredients, the method, and the finished product.



Everyday Fun Foods: Creative Recipes for Kid-Friendly Meals
Photos show kids about 3-6 years old. Obviously, they would have adult help. Recipes: waffle art (making figures from previously cooked waffles), French toast, mini frittatas, biscuits, quesadillas, sandwiches, PB, deviled egg boats, pizza dippers, bagel critters, squid dogs, crabwich, pretzels, egg mice, strawberry ladybugs, schools of fish, cucumber snake, chew on your pencil, cheesy chums, eat your worms, oven baked fries, taco salad, PB noodles, soup, grilled cheese croutons, umbrella cookies, cupcakes, froggy fun banana cream pie, ice cream sandwich. Good photos. Some recipes more difficult than others. Quite a few don't involve the child cooking (child decorates).



What Shall I Cook? By Ray Gibson, adapted for Chick-fil-A (Usborne)
Finished photos and illustrated instructions. Recipes: jam tarts, cheesy snakes and caterpillars, upside down cake, hot bunnies, little cheese tarts, painted cookies, coconut mice, easy pizza, sunshine toast.



Cooking with the Cat by Dr. Seuss (Step into Reading, Level 1)
Lots and Lots of phonetic reading, with a cooking/baking theme.
Read online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0mZady3mQx8>



See also

My First Cookbook: Fun recipes to cook together . . . with as much mixing, rolling, scrunching, and squishing as possible! (America's Test Kitchen Kids) for kids 4-7 years.

Kids can make salad dressing (vinegar & oil), drinks from drink mix, count, measure, mix, knead . . .