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Suggested Books to Read Before Kindergarten



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Join **1000 Books Before Kindergarten** to help prepare your child for reading! You can read any book to your baby, infant and/or toddler. The goal is to have read 1000 books before your child enters kindergarten.

In this guide, you will find a list of books and themes to help you start your reading!

Remember that holds can be placed on books throughout the King Township Library system and have them brought to your desired branch!

Early Literacy Backpacks

Have you tried our Early Literacy Backpacks? They are a selection of books and activities all in one tidy backpack! Making it easy to stop into one of our branches, grab one and go!

- All About Me
- Alphabet
- Bears
- Bugs
- Colours
- Community Helpers
- Dinosaurs
- Fairy Tales
- Farm Animals
- Feelings & Emotions
- Food
- I Love You
- It's Bedtime
- Jungle Friends
- Music
- My Friends
- Numbers
- And many more!



Unicorns

Title	Author	Call #
<i>We Are Unicorns</i>	Jennifer Fox	JE FOX (K)
<i>Good Night Unicorns</i>	Adam Gamble	JP GAM (S)
<i>Goldilicious</i>	Victoria Kann	JP KAN (K, N)
<i>How to Catch a Unicorn</i>	Adam Wallace	JP WAL (A, K, N, S)
<i>You Are My Magical Unicorn</i>	Joyce Wan	BB WAN (K, N, S)

Early Literacy Tip

As you read to your child, they may try to turn the pages of the book. Let them, even if it takes longer, because it helps them figure out how books work.

Weather

Title	Author	Call #
<i>Little Cloud</i>	Eric Carle	JP CAR (K)
<i>Ruby & Rufus</i>	Olivier Dunrea	JP DUN (S)
<i>The Wind Blew</i>	Pat Hutchins	JP HUT (K)
<i>Is It Warm Enough for Ice Cream?</i>	Violet Peto	BB PET (K)

Stories in Rhyme

Title	Author	Call #
<i>Llama Llama Red Pajama</i>	Anna Dewdney	JP DEW (A)
<i>The Gruffalo</i>	Julia Donaldson	JP DON (K, N)
<i>Mighty, Mighty, Construction Site</i>	Sherri Rinker	JP RIN (S)
<i>Ten Little Fingers, Ten Little Toes</i>	Mem Fox	BB FOX (K, S)
<i>How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night?</i>	Jane Yolen	JP YOL (K, N)

Early Literacy Tip

Kids need repetition to learn. They need to hear words over and over again to learn language. So read them their favourite book again - it's actually good for them!

Transportation

Title	Author	Call #
<i>Emergency!</i>	Tim Bugbird	JP BUG (A)
<i>Ship</i>	Chris Demarest	BB DEM (S)
<i>Bus Stop</i>	Taro Gomi	BB GOM (K,S)
<i>I Can Ride</i>	Lynn Kertell	JE KER (K, S)
<i>The Wheels On the Bus</i>	Ann Owen	JP OWE (N)
<i>Let's Go!</i>	Marjorie Parker	JE PAR (K)
<i>Plane Jane's Journey</i>	Billy Steers	BB STE (S)
<i>That's Not My Train...</i>	Fiona Watt	BB WAT (K)

Join us at our Early Literacy Programs!

Born to Read	Stories, finger plays & songs for parents/caregivers and 0-2 year olds. This is a free program, please pre-register.
King City	Tuesdays at 10:30-11am
Nobleton	Mondays at 9:30-10am
Schomberg	Wednesdays at 9:30-10am

Toddling to Read	Featuring stories, songs, and action rhymes for toddlers (18 months to 3 years) with their parents/caregivers. This is a free program, please pre-register.
King City	Tuesdays at 11:15-11:45am
Nobleton	Mondays at 10:15-10:45am
Schomberg	Wednesdays at 10:15-10:45am

Pathways to Kindergarten	Children aged 3-5 years old, enjoy an independent session of stories, songs, activities and crafts while learning some of the social skills they will need in kindergarten. Caregivers/parents must remain in the library and children must be pre-registered and the cost is \$25 for the
Nobleton	Mondays at 11:00-11:40am
Schomberg	Wednesdays at 11:00-11:40am

Animals

Title	Author	Call #
<i>Sloth at the Zoom</i>	Helaine Becker	JP BEC (S)
<i>When an Elephant Falls in Love</i>	Davide Cali	JP CAL (K)
<i>Duck & Goose</i>	Tad Hills	JP HIL (N)
<i>Wow Said the Owl</i>	Jim Hopgood	JP HOP (S)
<i>The Long Long Line</i>	Tomoko Ohmura	JP OHM (S)
<i>Bear Snores On</i>	Karma Wilson	JP WIL (K, S)
<i>Meow</i>	Victoria Ying	JP YIN (K, S)

Early Literacy Tip

Watching your child and narrating their play is a great way to help young kids understand that language can describe their actions. Add questions as they get older to help them think about what they're doing and plan.

As Seen on TV

Title	Author	Call #
<i>The Story of Peppa Pig</i> [Peppa Pig]	Neville Astley	JP AST (K)
<i>Franklin in the Dark</i> [Franklin]	Paulette Bourgeois	JP BOU (K, S)
<i>Arthur's Family Treasury</i> [Arthur]	Marc Brown	JP BRO (N)
<i>Llama Llama and Friends</i> [Llama Llama]	Anna Dewdney	JP LLA (A, K, N, S)
<i>Pinkalicious</i> [Pinkalicious]	Victoria Kann	JP KAN (S)
<i>Paw Patrol 5 Minute Stories Collection</i> [Paw Patrol]	Paw Patrol	JP PAW (A, K, N, S)
<i>My Fanciest Things</i> [Fancy Nancy]	Krista Tucker	JP TUC (A, K, N, S)

Shapes

Title	Author	Call #
<i>Square</i>	Mac Barnett	BB BAR (S)
<i>My Turn To Learn Shapes</i>	Natalie Marshall	BB MAR (N)
<i>Lines</i>	Sarvinder Naberhaus	BB NAB (K)
<i>Animal Shapes</i>	Christopher Neal	BB NEA (N)
<i>All Sorts of Shapes</i>	Hannah Reidy	BB REI (K)
<i>Shapes All Around</i>	Kate Riggs	BB RIG (S)
<i>Square Cat</i>	Elizabeth Schoonmaker	JP SCH (N)

Song Books

Title	Author	Call #
<i>Snuggle Puppy</i>	Sandra Boynton	JP BOY (S)
<i>Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed</i>	Eileen Christelow	JP CHR (S)
<i>The Pout-Pout Fish</i>	Deborah Diesen	JP DIE (K, N)
<i>Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes</i>	Eric Litwin	JP LIT (K)
<i>The Croaky Pokey</i>	Ethan Long	JP LON (A)
<i>There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly</i>	Simms Taback	JP TAB (N)

Numbers

Title	Author	Call #
<i>I Spy 123</i>	Manuela Ancutici	JP ANC (A, N, S)
<i>My Very First Book of Numbers</i>	Eric Carle	BB CAR
<i>I Know Numbers</i>	Tomi Garo	JP GOM (S)
<i>Anne's Numbers</i>	Kelly Hill	BB HIL (S)
<i>Counting Kisses</i>	Karen Katz	JP KAT (K)
<i>1 Grumpy Bruce</i>	Ryan Higgins	BB HIG (K, N, S)
<i>Numbers</i>	Dawn Sirett	BB SIR (N)

Early Literacy Tip

Kids first learn words for things they can see, then words for "Songs with movements, like Hokey Pokey or Teddy Bear, help toddlers practice remembering things in order. They also help to get some wiggles out!

Opposites

Title	Author	Call #
<i>Hero Vs. Villain</i>	T. Nat Fuller	BB FUL (K)
<i>What's Up Duck?</i>	Tad Hills	BB HIL (N)
<i>Kipper's Book of Opposites</i>	Mick Inkpen	JP INK (N)
<i>My Turn to Learn Opposites</i>	Natalie Marshall	BB MAR (A)
<i>Opposites</i>	Marianna Oklejak	BB OKL (S)
<i>Big and Little: A Story of Opposites</i>	Cheryl Pilgrim	JP PIL (K, S)

Bedtime

Title	Author	Call #
<i>Good Night my Darling Baby</i>	Alyssa Capucilli	JP CAP (K)
<i>Pete the Cat and the Bedtime Blues</i>	James Dean	JP DEA (K, S)
<i>Good Night, World</i>	Nicola Edwards	JP EDW (K)
<i>But First We Nap</i>	David Miles	BB MIL (K)
<i>Don't Blink</i>	Amy Rosenthal	JP ROS (S)
<i>Sleepy Bird</i>	Jeremy Tankard	JP TAN (A, K, N, S)

Early Literacy Tip

Sing and say nursery rhymes! Research has shown that kids who know nursery rhymes find it easier to learn to read.

Canadian Titles

Title	Author	Call #
<i>Good Morning Canada</i>	Andrea Beck	JP BEC (A, K)
<i>ABC of Canada</i>	Kim Bellefontaine	JP BEL (A, K, N)
<i>Canada 123</i>	Paul Covello	JP COV (K)
<i>Goodnight, Anne</i>	Kallie George	JP GEO (A)
<i>Jillian Jiggs</i>	Phoebe Gilman	JP GIL (N, S)
<i>You Hold Me Up</i>	Monique Gray	JP GRA (A, N)
<i>This is Not My Hat</i>	Jon Klassen	JP KLA (A)
<i>Up the Creek</i>	Nicholas Oldland	JP OLD (K)
<i>Read Me a Book</i>	Barbara Reid	JP REI (S)
<i>Jump, Leap, Count Sheep!</i>	Geraldo Valerio	J513.211 VAL (A, N, S)

Classics

Title	Author	Call #
<i>Goodnight Moon</i>	Margaret Wise Borwn	JP BRO (K,S)
<i>Are You My Mother?</i>	P.D. Eastman	JP EAS (A)
<i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar</i>	Eric Carle	JP CAR (A, K, N)
<i>Corduroy</i>	Don Freeman	JP FRE (S)
<i>Frog and Toad Are Friends</i>	Arnold Lobel	JE LOB (A, N)
<i>Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?</i>	Bill Martin	JP MAR (K)
<i>The Little Engine that Could</i>	Watty Piper	JP PIP (A, N)
<i>The Tale of Peter Rabbit</i>	Beatrix Potter	JP POT (K)
<i>Curious George</i>	H.A. Rey	JP REY (A, K, N)
<i>Green Eggs and Ham</i>	Dr. Seuss	JP SEU (A, K, N)
<i>Owl Moon</i>	Jane Yolen	JP YOL (K, S)

Colours

Title	Author	Call #
<i>The Day the Crayons Quit</i>	Drew Daywalt	JP DAY (K, S)
<i>A Colour of His Own</i>	Leo Lionni	JP LIO (A, N, S)
<i>A Little Book About Colors</i>	Leo Lionni	BB LIO (N)
<i>Blue vs. Yellow</i>	Tom Sullivan	JP SUL (S)
<i>Splish, Splash Foxes Dash</i>	Geraldo Valerio	JP VAL (N)
<i>Bear Sees Colors</i>	Karma Wilson	JP WIL

Nature

Title	Author	Call #
<i>Here We Are</i>	Oliver Jeffers	JP JEF (K, S)
<i>Plant the Tiny Seed</i>	Christie Matheson	JP MAT (K, S)
<i>In My Garden</i>	Ruth Musgrave	BB MUS (N)
<i>Goodbye Autumn, Hello Winter</i>	Kenard Pak	JP PAK (K, S)
<i>Little Owl's Night</i>	Diyva Srinivasan	JP SRI (S)

Early Literacy Tip

Kids first learn words for things they can see, then words for feelings and concepts, and then words for ideas. But talk to them about everything!

Nursery Rhymes

Title	Author	Call #
<i>Each Peach Pear Plum</i>	Janet Ahlberg	JP AHL (N)
<i>Pete the Cat And the Itsy Bitsy Spider</i>	James Dean	JP DEA (N)
<i>Five Little Ducks</i>	Pamela Paparone	BB PAP (N)
<i>My First Songs</i>	Random Children's House	BB MY (K)
<i>Mother Goose</i>	Will Moses	J398.8 MOS (N)
<i>This Little Piggy: And Other Favourite Action Rhymes</i>	Hannah Wood	BB WOO (K)

Humorous

Title	Author	Call #
<i>Click, Clack Moo: Cows that Type</i>	Doreen Cronin	JP CRO (K, N)
<i>Kitten's First Full Moon</i>	Kevin Henkes	JP HEN (N)
<i>Froggy Gets Dressed</i>	Jonathan London	JP LON (N)
<i>The Paper Bag Princess</i>	Robert Munsch	JP MUN (A, K, N, S)
<i>If You Give a Mouse a Cookie</i>	Laura Numeroff	JP NUM (A)
<i>Rhyming Dust Bunnies</i>	Jan Thomas	JP THO (K)
<i>Winnie the Witch</i>	Valerie Thomas	JP THO (A)
<i>Scaredy Squirrel</i>	Melaine Watt	JP WAT (A)
<i>Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus</i>	Mo Willems	JP WIL (A, K, N, S)

Interactive

Title	Author	Call #
<i>From Head to Toe</i>	Eric Carle	JP CAR (A, K, N, S)
<i>Don't Push the Button</i>	Bill Cotter	JP COT (K, S)
<i>Go Away Big Green Monster</i>	Ed Emberley	JP EMB (A, K, N, S)
<i>Tap the Magic Tree</i>	Christie Matheson	JP MAT (A, K, N, S)
<i>Not a Box</i>	Antoinette Portis	JP POR (K)
<i>Do You Know Which Ones Will Grow</i>	Susan Shea	JP SHE (S)
<i>Say Zoop</i>	Herve Tullet	JP TUL (A, N, S)

Community Helpers

Title	Author	Call #
<i>Fly Guy Presents: Police Officers</i>	Todd Arnold	JE ARN (K)
<i>Doctor</i>	Amanda Askew	610 ASK (A)
<i>Firefighter</i>	Amanda Askew	J363.37 ASK (N)
<i>The Berenstain Bears Go To The Doctor</i>	Stan & Jan Berenstain	JP BER (N, S)
<i>I'm A Police Officer</i>	Brian Biggs	JP TAN (A, K, N, S)
<i>Clifford Goes to the Doctor</i>	Norman Bridwell	JE BRI (N)
<i>Firefighter Pete</i>	James Dean	JP DEA (A, K, N, S)
<i>I Want To Be A Veterinarian</i>	Laura Driscoll	JE DRI (K)
<i>A Day at the Police Station</i>	Richard Scarry	JP SCA (N)
<i>Fight This Fire</i>	Anthony Steele	JP STE (K)
<i>Doctor</i>	Jessica Stockham	JP STO (N)

Dinosaurs

Title	Author	Call #
<i>I Love My Dinosaur</i>	Giles Andrae	JP AND (S)
<i>Dinosaur Countdown</i>	Nicholas Oldland	JP OLD (K)
<i>Counting Dinos</i>	Eric Pinder	JP PIN (N)
<i>George's New Dinosaur</i>	Meredith Rusu	JP RUS (K)
<i>Dinosaur Roar</i>	Paul & Henrietta Strickland	JP STR (A, K)
<i>This Is My Dinosaur</i>	Sam Taplin	BB TAP (K, S)

Diversity

Title	Author	Call #
<i>Woke Baby</i>	Mahogany Browne	JP BRO (A, K, S)
<i>Dream Big, Little One</i>	Vashti Harrison	BB HAR (S)
<i>Lovely</i>	Jess Hong	JP HON (S)
<i>All Are Welcome</i>	Alexandra Penfold	JP PEN (K)
<i>And Tango Makes Three</i>	Justin Richardson	JP RIC (K, S)
<i>Mommy's Khimar</i>	Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow	JP THO (K)

Early Literacy Tip

Playing simple imitation games with your toddler, like Follow the Leader, is great for developing memory, attention, and learning how to stop unnecessary actions.

Emotions

Title	Author	Call #
<i>Anne's Feelings</i>	Kelly Hill	BB HIL (A)
<i>Belly Breathe</i>	Leslie Kimmelman	BB KIM (A, K, N, S)
<i>Ira Crumb Feels the Feelings</i>	Naseem Hrab	JP HRA (S)
<i>The Happy Book</i>	Andy Rash	JP RAS (K, S)
<i>Under the Same Sky</i>	Britta Teckentrup	JP TEC (S)
<i>Feelings</i>	Libby Walden	JP WAL (S)

Family

Title	Author	Call #
<i>Hope</i>	Matthew Cordell	JP COR (K, S)
<i>Guess How Much I Love You</i>	Sam McBratney	JP MCB (K)
<i>Bunny Roo I Love You</i>	Melissa Marr	JP MAR (S)
<i>I'll Love You Forever</i>	Robert Munsch	JP MUN (A, K, N, S)
<i>The Family Book</i>	Todd Parr	BB PAR (K)

Food

Title	Author	Call #
<i>Vegetables in Underwear</i>	Jared Chapman	JP CHA (A, S)
<i>Nom Nom Opposites</i>	Forrest Everett	BB EVE (S)
<i>My Fridge</i>	Duo Press	BB MY (N)
<i>Mrs. Peanuckle's Fruit Alphabet</i>	Mrs. Peanuckle	BB PEA (N)
<i>The Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog</i>	Mo Willems	JP WIL (A, K, N, S)
<i>How Do Dinosaurs Eat Their Food?</i>	Jane Yolen	JP YOL (A)

Friendship

Title	Author	Call #
<i>What About Harry?</i>	Derek Anderson	JP AND (K)
<i>We Are (Not) Friends</i>	Anna Kang	JP KAN (S)
<i>My Friends Make Me Happy!</i>	Jan Thomas	JE THO (K, N)
<i>My New Friend Is So Fun!</i>	Mo Willems	JE WIL (K)