

Gift recommendations for young children from a Reggio inspired center

by Patricia Hunter McGrath

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Introduction

In an effort to foster awareness and action among children and families, we have curated a children's booklist that we hope you will find inspiring and useful. This booklist is to provide educators, carers and parents with resources to broach important topics with preschool aged children.

We recommend you read these books before reading them with children to give yourself time to think through questions that might arise. We've prioritized finding books that highlight human diversity in the realms of cultural inclusion (anti-bias), language, gender, family structure, and socioeconomics. We've also included books which celebrate gratitude and responsible use of our environmental resources.

The books listed link to local Culver City bookstore Village Well Books & Coffee when available, and titles are asterisked if we have them in the Branches Atelier library. Your local bookstores and local library are also excellent places to find or request these books.

Over time, we hope to expand the resource guide to include books and articles for adults, and additional studies which support current research on these topics. If you have a book, article, or study that you think we should include, please send it our way. Visit **goo.gl/ yY6rsY** for the recommendation form.





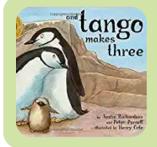
A Rainbow of Friends*

P.K. Hallinan



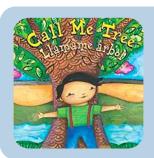
The Boy Who Grew Flowers

Jen Wojtowicz



And Tango Makes Three*

Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell



Call Me Tree/ Llamame Arbol

Maya Christina Gonzalez



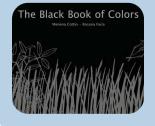
Areli is a Dreamer

Areli Morales



Cat on the Bus*

Aram Kim



The Black Book of Colors

Menena Cottin & Rosana Faria



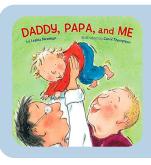
Change Sings

Amanda Gorman & Loren Long



Boy

Phil Cummings



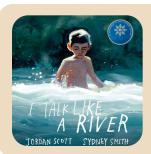
Daddy, Papa, and Me*

Lesléa Newman



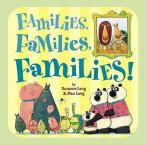
The Different Dragon*

Jennifer Bryan



I Talk Like a River

Jordan Scott



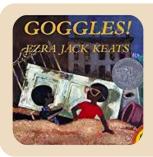
Families, Families, Families!

Suzanne and Max Lang



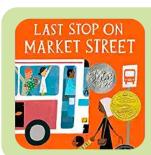
Justice Makes a Difference*

Dr. Artika R. Tyner



Goggles!*

Ezra Jack Keats



Last Stop on Market Street*

Matt de la Peña



Home*

Carson Ellis



Let's Go Play: A Children's Book About Adaptive Equipment and Inclusion

Shelby McCarthy



If You Come to Earth*

Sophie Blackall



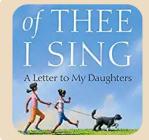
Little Home Bird*

Jo Empson



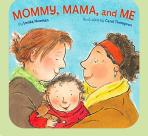
Mama Zooms*

Jane Cowen-Fletcher



Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters*

Barack Obama and Loren Long



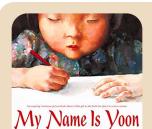
Mommy, Mama, and Me*

Lesléa Newman



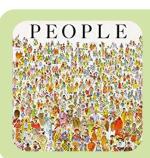
Our Skin*

Megan Madison, Jessica Ralli, & Isabel Roxas



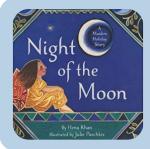
My Name Is Yoon

Helen Recorvits



People

Peter Spier



Night of the Moon: A Muslim Holiday Story

Hena Khan



Sarabella's Thinking Cap

Judy Schachner



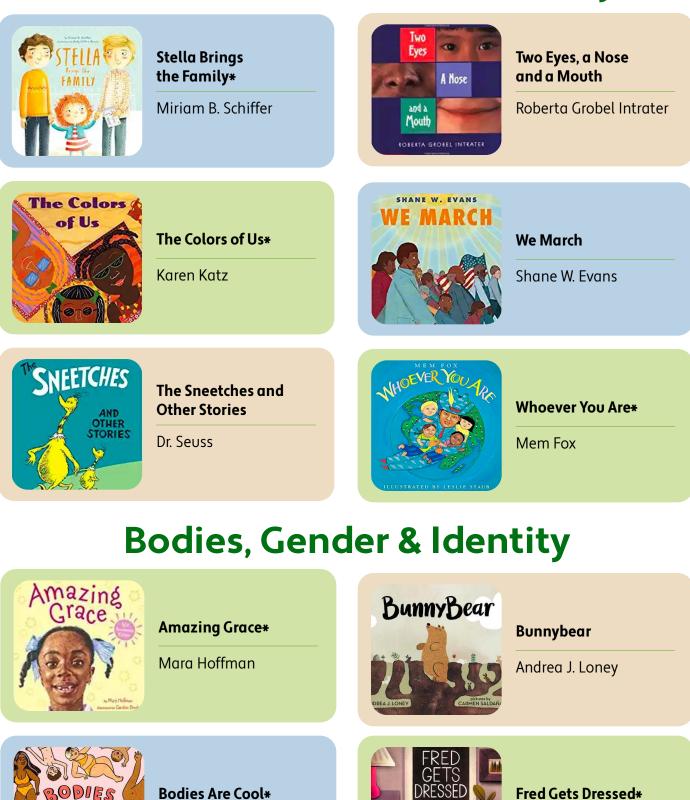
Not Every Princess*

Jeffrey and Lisa Bone



Say Hello!

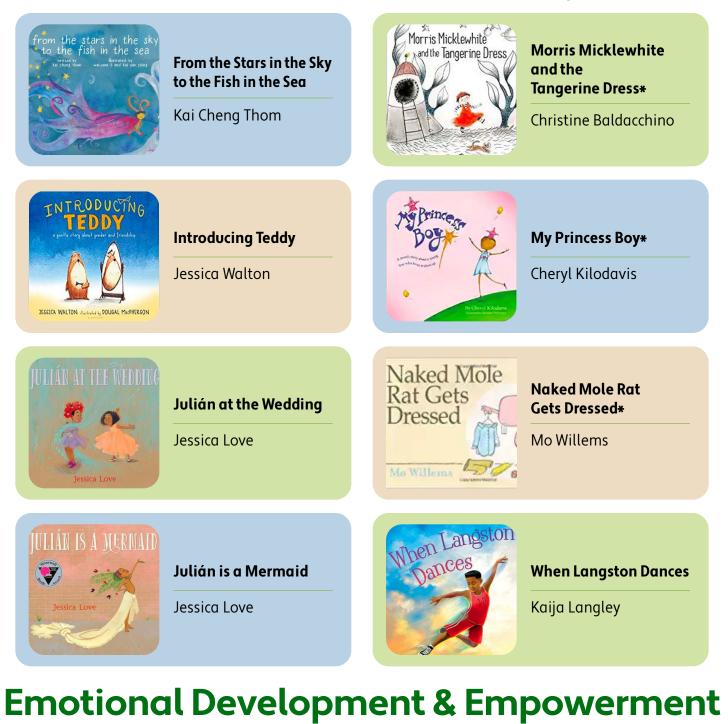
Rachel Isadora



Tyler Feder

Peter Brown

Bodies, Gender & Identity





Emotional Development & Empowerment

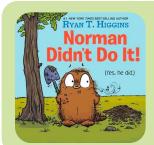


Emotional Development & Empowerment



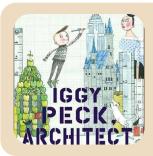
l Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark

Debbie Levy



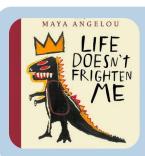
Norman Didn't Do It! (Yes, He Did)

Ryan T. Higgins



Iggy Peck, Architect*

Andrea Beaty



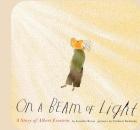
Life Doesn't Frighten Me*

Maya Angelou



l'll Meet You In Your Dreams*

Jessica Young



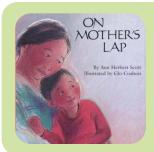
On a Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein

Jennifer Berne



In My Heart: a Book of Feelings*

Jo Witek



On Mother's Lap*

Ann Herbert Scott

 KCALA LOU

 Image: State of the s

Koala Lou

Mem Fox



Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons*

Eric Litwin, James Dean

Emotional Development & Empowerment

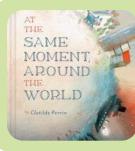


Connection to Nature



A Leaf Can Be...

Laura Purdie Salas



At the Same Moment, Around the World

Clotilde Perrin

The Environment, Conservation & Connection to Nature



Be a Tree!*

Maria Gianferrari



Imagine a Day

Sarah L. Thompson



Extra Yarn

Mac Barnett



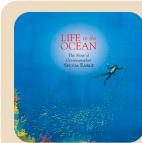
Isabella's Garden

Glenda Millard



Grow! Raise! Catch! How We Get Our Food*

Shelley Rotner



Life in the Ocean: A Story of Oceanographer Sylvia Earle*

Claire A. Nivola



Here We Are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth

Oliver Jeffers

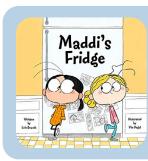


Listen to the Rain*

Bill Martin Jr. & John Archambault



Hey, Little Ant
Phillip & Hannah Hoose



Maddi's Fridge

Lois Brandt

The Environment, Conservation & Connection to Nature



Miss Rumphius*

Barbara Cooney



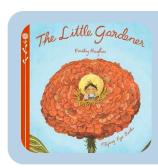
The Curious Garden*

Peter Brown

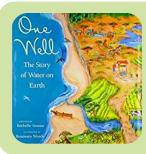


Nature Anatomy

Julia Rothman

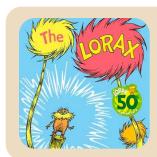


The Little Gardener Emily Hughes



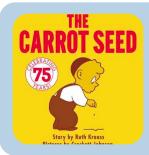
One Well: The Story of Water on Earth

Rochelle Strauss



The Lorax*

Dr. Seuss



The Carrot Seed Ruth Krauss



The Red Lemon

Bob Staake



The Cloud Spinner*

Michael Catchpool



The Tree Lady: The True Story of How One Tree-Loving Woman Changed a City Forever*

H. Joseph Hopkins

The Environment, Conservation & Connection to Nature



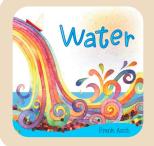
Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt

Kate Messner



We Planted a Tree*

Diane Muldrow, Bob Staake

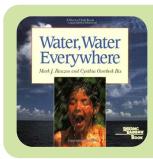


Water*



You Are Stardust

Elin Kelsey



Water, Water Everywhere*

Cynthia Overbeck Bix & Mark Rauzon



Wild

Emily Hughes

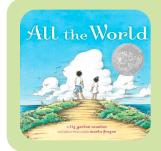


Gratitude & mindfulness



A Handful of Quiet: Happiness in Four Pebbles*

Thich Nhat Hanh



All the World

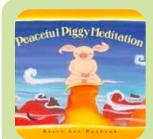
Liz Garton Scanlon

Gratitude & mindfulness



Baby Wren and the Great Gift

Sally Lloyd-Jones



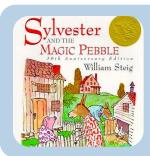
Peaceful Piggy Meditation*

Kerry Lee MacLean



Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message*

Chief Jake Swamp



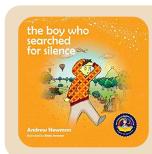
Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*

William Steig



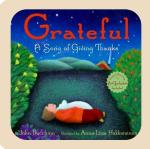
Giving Thanks: More than 100 ways to say thank you*

Ellen Surrey



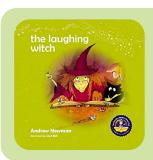
The Boy Who Searched for Silence*

Andrew Newman



Grateful, A Song of Giving Thanks*

John Bucchino



The Laughing Witch*

Andrew Newman



Have You Filled a Bucket Today?

Carol McCloud



The Most Thankful Thing

Lisa McCourt

Gratitude & mindfulness



Helping Others & Friendship



Good People Everywhere

Lynea Gillen



One Plastic Bag

Miranda Paul



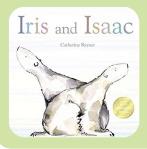
Maybe Something Beautiful*

F. Isabel Campoy



Red Knit Cap Girl to the Rescue*

Naoko Stoop

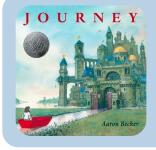


Iris and Isaac* Catherine Rayner



Strictly No Elephants*

Lisa Mantchev



Journey* Aaron Becker



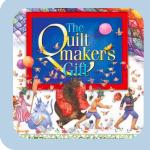
The Most Magnificent Thing*

Ashley Spires



Lost and Found*

Oliver Jeffers



The Quiltmaker's Gift*

Jeff Brumbeau

Helping Others & Friendship



The Red Bicycle

Jude Isabella



Wild Ideas*

Elin Kelsey



The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade

Justin Roberts

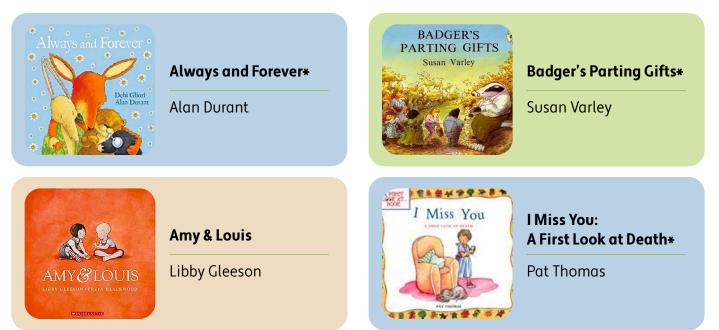


Zen Ties*

Jon J. Muth



Life Circumstances



Life Circumstances



Social Thinking



We Thinkers! Volume 1 Social Explorers

Kari Zweber Palmer, Nancy Tarshis, Ryan Hendrix, Michelle Garcia Winner

Titles:

- Body in the Group
- The Group Plan
- Thinking Thoughts and Feeling Feelings
- Thinking With Your Eyes
- Whole Body Listening



Titles:

- Flexible & Stuck Thinking
- Hidden Rules & Expected and Unexpected Behaviors

We Thinkers! Volume 2

Social Problem Solvers

Kari Zweber Palmer.

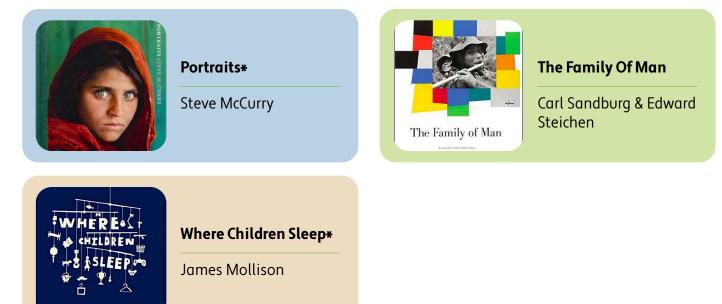
Nancy Tarshis, Ryan

Hendrix, Michelle

Garcia Winner

- Sharing an Imagination
- Size of the Problem
- Smart Guess

Visual/Photography



Toys & Gifts

Parents, Family and Friends,

With the upcoming holiday season fast approaching, here is our updated Toy and Gift Guide. These gifts will support children's creativity, imagination, problem-solving skills, attention, and self-control skills.

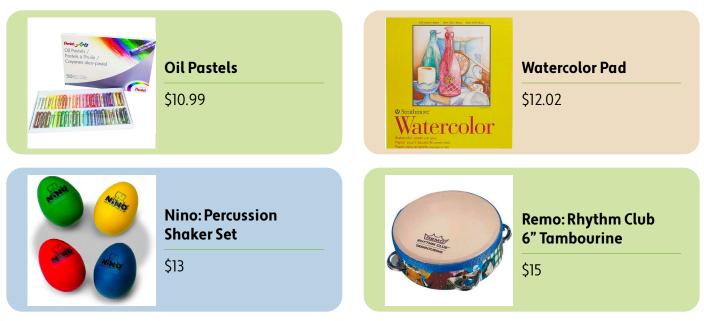
Before heading out to the mall or jumping online to purchase the latest and greatest gifts, I would like to suggest that perhaps you might rethink how many new toys your child needs. I encourage you to slow down and maybe scale back the number and kind of toys and gifts you purchase and consider the actual cost of toys. While all toys do have a sticker price, with climate change being one of the biggest challenges of our time, we also have to take into consideration the environmental cost of producing so many gifts and toys. We must ask ourselves the question, "What happens to the gift after a child is finished with it?"

If your child has too much, nothing is special.

When a child has too many toys, they tend to flit from one to the other without investing time and deeply exploring or playing with what they have. This leads to boredom. Too often, the latest and greatest toys often end up discarded and, unfortunately, in the trash dump within a few months. Many of these toys are made of plastic and don't naturally break down. If you think the toy might be discarded in a few months, don't buy it.

Instead, here are some environmentally friendly, child-tried, tested, high-quality, educational and fun, gifts ideas that your child will enjoy and can be used for years to come. I have found these toys to withstand the test of time. Best of all, many of them will have less impact on the environment. Finally, don't forget to buy less, play more and spend time creating some wonderful new family memories! Enjoy!

Kind Regards, Patricia



Art & Music



Toys



IKEA: fruit basket set

\$9.99



IKEA: vegetable basket set

\$9.99



CAT Construction Little Machines

\$9.99



Hape: First Pounder \$11.99



Hearthsong: Play Silks

\$12.98



Silicone Baking Molds \$12.99



IKEA: shopping basket set \$12.99



Tikiri Meiya: Mouse Teether \$13.99



Woodland Friends Stacking Cubes

\$14.95



Eco dough



Sarah's Silks: Play Silks

1pc - \$16, 6pc - \$89, 17pc - \$236





Soft Weighted Balls

\$21.95



Paint Plant Kit

\$23.99



Melissa & Doug: Frolicking Frog Pull Toy

\$24.79



Wooden Train Set

\$24.99



Wooden Race Car Track \$24.99



Hape: Alphabet Blocks

\$24.99



Hape: Doctor on Call Play Kit

\$24.99



Melissa & Doug: Stacking Train

\$19.49



Kidsthrill: Stacking cups



Hape: Fresh Fruit Play Set

\$19.94



Automoblox: Mini Mixand-Match Racecars \$19.99



PlanToys: Wooden Dancing Alligator

varies: Natural - \$25, Green - \$42.48



Hape: Walk-A-Long Puppy

\$26.99



Automoblox: Mini Emergency Cars

\$29.99



PlanToys: Wooden Fruit & Vegetable Set

\$30



Grimms: Rainbow Nesting Bowls

\$30



Melissa & Doug: Stainless Steel Pots and Pans

\$32.49



PlanToys: Pull-Along Snail

\$30



Hape: Fantasia Blocks Train \$32.99



Hape: Pound & Tap Bench \$32.99



Tegu: Magnetic blocks 14pc - \$35, 42pc - \$118.53



Tea Set & Picnic Basket

\$37.50



Gardening Tool Set \$38



Heavy Duty Construction Play Set

\$38.99



Hearthsong: Woodland Habitat Connectagons

\$39.98



Lakeshore: Soft & washable sensory balls

\$39.99



Hape: Dynamo Dominoes

\$39.99



Lakeshore: Sensory ball set

<image><image>

Uncle Goose: Nursery rhyme blocks

\$46



Tonka: Steel Front Loader





Rubens Barn: Cuties dolls

\$49.95

\$55



Top Race: Diecast Metal Construction Trucks

\$49.99



KODO: Puzzle Keys



PBK: Learning Blocks

\$59

Melis Wood \$59.49

Melissa & Doug: Wooden Barn \$59.49



Hearthsong: PopOptical Connectagons

\$69.98



Rubens Barn: Rubens Baby

\$79.95

\$99



Grimms: Four Elements Wooden Puzzle

small - \$86, large - \$145



KODO: Toddler Ramp Set



Grimms: Wooden Rainbow Stacking Tunnel

\$110



Magna-Tiles: Clear Colors Set 100-pc

\$119.99



KODO: Discovery Ramps

\$129-375



HABA: Moover Dump Truck

\$139.98



Hape: White Gourmet Kitchen

\$139.99



Community Playthings: Kiddie Car



Kid's Concept: Bistro Wooden Kitchen

\$168



Grimms: Large Stepped Pyramid Wooden Blocks

\$199



Hearthsong: Mud Kitchen

\$210



Cubetto: Classic Playset

\$225



KODO: Puzzle Ball Track

\$245



Community Playthings: Small Trucks - 5ct

\$275



Austrian Wooden Sandbox

\$299



KODO: Discovery Ramps Deluxe w/ Caddy

\$319



Community Playthings: Sand & Water Table

\$385



Games



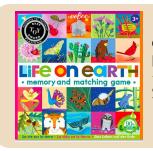
DJECO: Animal Dominoes

\$12.99



Peaceable Kingdom: Hoot Owl Hoot!

\$16.95



eeBoo: Life on Earth Memory Game

\$17.99



eeBoo: I Never Forget a Face Memory Game

\$18

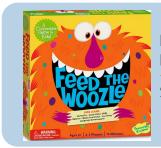


Plan Toys: Balancing Boat

\$20



Chutes and Ladders



Peaceable Kingdom: Feed the Wozzle

\$21.95



Educational Insights: The Sneaky, Snacky Squirrel

\$21.99



Educational Insights: Shelby's Snack Shack

\$22.99



Hearthsong: Jumbo memory game

\$24.98



TABLETOPICS Family Conversation Cards

\$25