

KIDS' READS BOOKS FOR CHILDREN



Issue #4



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Introduction

Reading is a very important life skill. Reading ignites the imagination, inspires learning, promotes communication skills, and exercises the brain. It's also a darn good way to relax and pass time!

Therefore, it's no surprise that parents want to get their children on board the reading train that will set them up for life.

So how do you get your kids hooked on books?

We've compiled a list of our favourite books that are guaranteed to please even the most reluctant of readers. The books have been arranged by categories, depending on what your children (or you) want out of them – for example, would you prefer a rhyming book or a book that teaches the value of kindness? For parents, perhaps your motives are more self-serving and you'd love a book that will make your children sleepy or make them stop fighting with their sister.

Regardless of your motives, we have the perfect books for you!



Rhyming books

We are starting with this section because the research consistently shows that rhythm and rhyme play a massive role in the development of children's early literacy skills.

Rhyming helps children understand sounds within words, experience the rhythm of language and learn to predict the next rhyming word (an important skill in literacy development).

Here are some of our favourite rhyming books. Even though we have recommended an age range for each book, we believe that babies and younger children will also enjoy and benefit from the rhythmic elements of the stories, even if they don't yet understand the content.

The Very Cranky Bear

- Nick Bland (Ages 2-7)

A cracking good rhyme that is also fun for parents to read aloud, The Very Cranky Bear tells the story of a group of friends - a zebra, a moose, a lion and a sheep - who take shelter in a cave and start playing a card game.

Unfortunately, the noise they make awakens a grumpy bear who shoos them away. The four friends work together to try and figure out why the bear is so cranky.

Thelma the Unicorn

- Aaron Blabey (Ages 3-7)

Thelma the beige pony wants more than anything to be a unicorn. One day, a freak accident makes her wish come true. But in typical be-careful-what-you-wish-for style, she finds that life as a unicorn is not all it's cracked up to be. A great rhyme and a darn good life lesson - love yourself the way you are!

For Laughing Out Loud

- Various authors, edited by Jack Prelutsky (Ages 7-10)

For older kids, rhyming books can help spark an appreciation of more sophisticated poetry.

This volume of poems contains pieces that span a range of rhyming styles and fun topics, from a pancake collector to a pair of head-switching ghosts who engage in a booing contest.

Other books to consider

The Cat in the Hat

- Dr Seuss

Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes

- Mem Fox

Room on the Broom

- Julia Donaldson

We're Going on a Bear Hunt

- Michael Rosen

My Cat Likes to Hide Boxes

- Eve Sutton



Books that talk about important values and encourage good behaviour

Parenting often necessitates multi-tasking, so these books make the perfect way to encourage both literacy skills and positive behaviours at the same time!

Mine! Mine! Mine!

- Shelly Becker (Ages 3-6)

Does your little one have trouble sharing?

This book tells the tale of reluctant sharer Gail (favourite catchphrase - "Mine! Mine! Mine!") who suddenly has to contend with the arrival of her cousin Claire. A fun - and rhyming! - lesson on the importance of sharing.

Jilly's Terrible Temper Tantrums: And How She Outgrew Them

- Martha Heineman Pieper (Ages 3-8)

When Jilly the Kangaroo has a series of Terrible Temper Tantrums, her parents give her the loving support she needs to get through them. This book brilliantly outlines the healthy ways in which children can handle their emotions and parents can validate and guide them without the need for harsh words or discipline.

Have You Filled a Bucket Today?

- Carol McCloud (Ages 4-8)

Using the concept of an invisible bucket, this award-winning book shows that when we choose to be kind to others, we not only fill their buckets but also our own. Having a full bucket makes for a better world.

The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes

- Mark Pett and Gary Rubinstein (Ages 7+)

Beatrice is a 9-year-old who has never made a mistake in her life - a fact that has made her a celebrity in her town. Of course, this means that she ALWAYS wins the school talent show.

Until one day, she makes a very public mistake - at the school talent show, no less!

This book provides a fantastic lesson in how making a mistake doesn't have to be the end of the world, and how sometimes relaxing and letting go can lead to a more fun and joyful existence. Adults with perfectionistic tendencies will also relate to this book.

Ladybird's Remarkable

Relaxation: *How Children (and Frogs, Dogs, Flamingos and Dragons) Can Use Yoga Relaxation to Help Deal with Stress, Grief, Bullying and Lack of Confidence*

- Michael Chissick, Sarah Peacock (Ages 4-11)

Frog, Dog, Flamingo and Dragon are all upset for different reasons. Frog is overwhelmed with chores, Dog can't get through writer's block, Flamingo is being bullied, and Dragon's grandfather has just passed away. Then their friend Ladybird comes up with the perfect antidote - teaching them Ladybird's Remarkable Relaxation!

This gorgeously illustrated book teaches children how to cope with difficult emotions through yoga relaxation technique that can be used anywhere and anytime.

Other books to consider

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom

- Bill Martin Jr. & John Archambault [Taking turns](#)

Do Unto Otters: A Book About Manners

- Laurie Keller [Kindness and politeness](#)

The Tale of Pip and Squeak

- Kate Duke [Cooperation](#)

It's Okay to be Different

- Todd Parr [Diversity, acceptance of self and others](#)

The Mine-O-Saur

- Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen [Sharing](#)

THE GIRL WHO NEVER MADE MISTAKES

by MARK PETT and GARY RUBINSTEIN
ILLUSTRATED by MARK PETT



STRENGTH CARDS for Kids

How children can use yoga to manage stress, grief, bullying

MICHAEL CHISSICK

SARAH PETERSON

bird's Remarkable Relaxation

MICHAEL CHISSICK and SARAH PETERSON

SINGING DRAGON

Books that inspire a love of learning

Informal learning (i.e. outside an educational institution) is just as important as formal learning. Books have immense teaching powers and provide one of the best ways to consolidate existing knowledge or acquire new knowledge.

Baby Goes to Market

– Atinuke (Ages 2-5)

Baby and Mama go to an outdoor market. Unbeknownst to Mama, while she shops, baby is receiving edible gifts from the stall holders. Baby eats one of each item and places the leftovers in Mama's basket.

The brilliance of this book lies in the fun and simple way that it teaches basic mathematical concepts (particularly, addition and subtraction) to very young children – so subtly that they don't even realise they're learning!

Secret Coders #1: Get with the Program

– Gene Luen Yang (Ages 7-12)

New girl Hopper notices that there are a few strange things about her new school. However, when her new friend Eni joins her in the investigations, they get much more than they bargained for.

This adventure-filled graphic novel introduces young readers to basic programming principles through a series of puzzles. This book is the first in a series, so as your child becomes more proficient in programming concepts, they can progress with the characters through the multiple sequels.

Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls

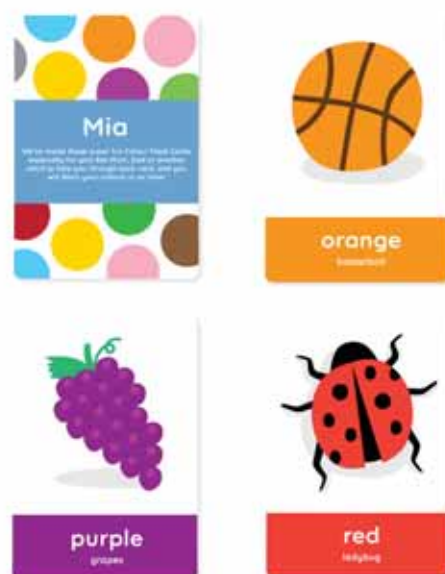
Elena Favilli & Francesca Cavallo (Ages 5-12)

Mini-biographies written in the style of fairy tales, this book covers the remarkable achievements of 100 women who have broken the mould. Spanning centuries and covering women with a diverse range of achievements (e.g. in sports, science and social justice), this book is sure to empower young girls and teach them that anything is possible.

By the way, boys will definitely enjoy this too. After all, the key to gender equality is to engage men and boys as much as possible!

Stuck On You flashcards

Stuck On You has a range of funky personalised flashcards that will perfectly complement your child's reading. Choose from letters, numbers, colours, animals or emotion - or all of the above!



Other books to consider

Animalia

– Graeme Base [Literacy, animals](#)

Meet Bacteria! (Mummy Nature, #1)

– Rebecca Bielawski [Science, natural world](#)

National Geographic: Little Kids

First Big Book of the World

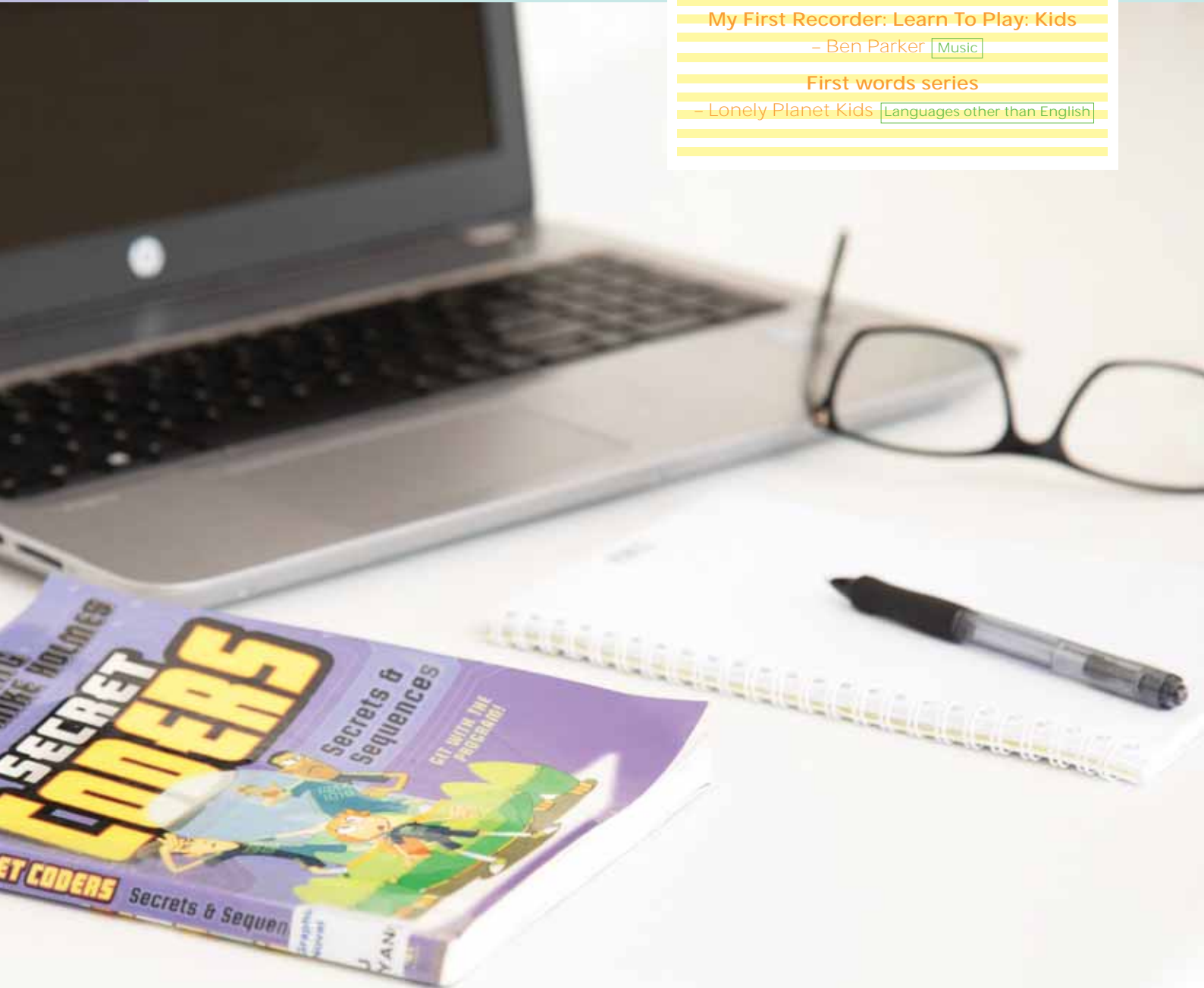
– Elizabeth Carney [Geography](#)

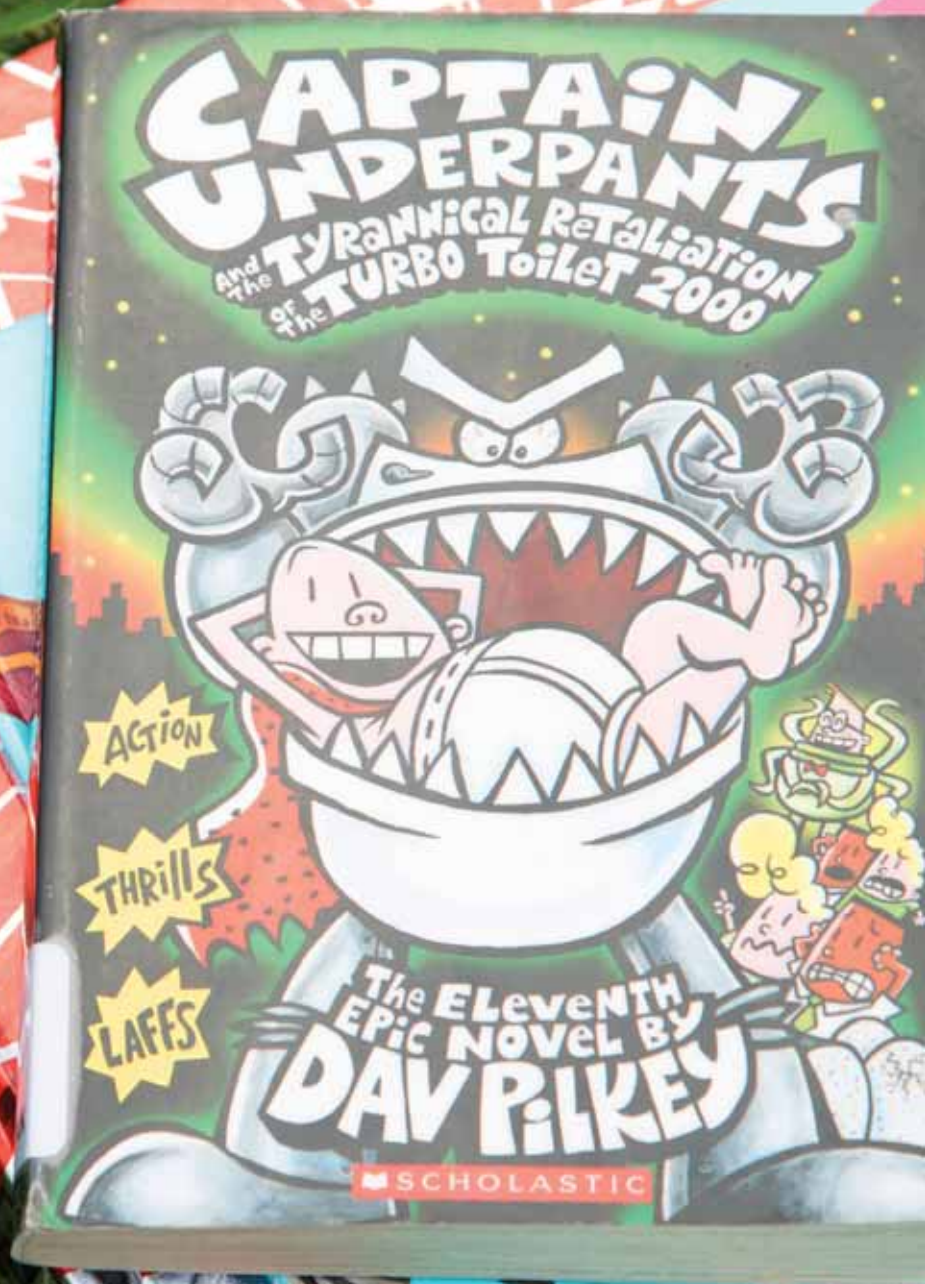
My First Recorder: Learn To Play: Kids

– Ben Parker [Music](#)

First words series

– Lonely Planet Kids [Languages other than English](#)





Other books to consider

What do they do with all the poo in the zoo?

– Anh Do

Any 'fun facts' and 'gross trivia' type books

Any 'choose your own adventure' type books.



Books for kids who don't like reading

Some children claim to hate reading. However, we have identified the following books as excellent vehicles with which to ignite or re-ignite a passion for the written word.

The Covers of my Book are Too Far Apart (and Other Grumbles)

– Vivian French (Ages 5-10)

This excellent picture book shuts down (gently) any justification a child or adult might have for why they don't like reading. If you have a fervent non-reader in the house, read them this and watch them flounder for excuses.

Everybody Poos

– Taro Gomi (Ages 2-5)

Not everybody likes to read, but most children (and adults) are fascinated by bodily emissions. "Everybody poos" is guaranteed to hook in even the most hesitant of little readers.

This illustrated book provides a straightforward yet humorous explanation of the types of poos that animals and humans create.

Jane and the Giant Poop

– Suzanne Schlosberg & Steve Hodges (Ages 3-10)

Another poo book! Better yet, one with a female lead. Gender equality has not been truly achieved until boys and girls can discuss poos and farts with equal enthusiasm.

When her giant poop clogs the toilet, Jane seeks the advice of the aptly-named Dr. Pooper, who tells her why her belly has been aching. From there, Jane becomes an expert on poo, its various shapes and sizes, and how to have a healthy digestive system.

The Captain Underpants series

– Dav Pilkey

This hugely popular children's book series revolves around two fourth graders, George and Harold, who make their own comic books about a superhero named Captain Underpants.

One day, when the boys hypnotise their bad-tempered principal, Mr Krupp, into thinking that he is Captain Underpants, their superhero comes to life.

The fun illustrations and toilet humour (though apparently not a single fart by any character!) are sure to get your reluctant little reader's nose into a few books!

Guinness World Records Series

(Ages 7+)

These books are great resource. Sure, they may be much longer than a typical children's book (200-300 pages), but they can be read in bite-sized chunks and is guaranteed to provide days and possibly weeks and months of amusement and wonder.

If you want something that looks more kid-friendly, the franchise has a version for kids called "Officially Amazing".

Stuck On You's personalised story books

(Ages 2-7)

Stuck On You has a range of gorgeous personalised story books that put your child in the spotlight!

Books that are personalised with your child's name are a terrific way to get your child to connect with a story in a more empathetic and meaningful way. Being the hero of the story can also boost your child's self-esteem and hold their attention longer, leading to more positive learning outcomes.



Books that help kids sleep

Let's be honest – when we read our kids a bedtime story, we do it with the expectation that they will sleep (and develop their literacy skills, strengthen the parent-child bond etc. etc.)

So here are some excellent books which will encourage the zzzzzzz's (hopefully).

Goodnight Moon

– Margaret Wise Brown (Ages 0-4)

This 1947 classic has remained popular, and for good reason. In a beautiful lulling pace, this rhyming book is about saying goodnight to everything around you.

Goodnight iPad

– Ann Droyd (Ages 5-8)

A fun, modern take on “Goodnight Moon,” “Goodnight iPad” is about saying goodnight to all the electronic devices in the house – Androids, apps and remotes, and more.

Fairytales Gone Wrong: Get Some Rest, Sleeping Beauty!

– Steve Smallman (Ages 3-7)

A book in the “Fairytales Gone Wrong” series, “Get Some Rest Sleeping Beauty” tells the tale of Aurora, a girl who tries to stay up as late as she can and as a result wakes up very grumpy. When a spell sends her to sleep for 100 years, she wakes up energetic and happy. A fun lesson on the importance of sleep.

The Rabbit Who Wants To Fall Asleep

- Carl-Johan Forssén Ehrlin (All ages)

This book has been praised as a bedtime miracle. Its author, a Swedish behavioural scientist, uses a hypnotic lulling pace that is supposedly effective in getting kids to sleep. Regardless of the science behind it, it's still a cracking good read!

We've put that this book is suitable for all ages because several readers have claimed that reading it aloud put their husbands or themselves to sleep – hopefully this can be taken as a testament to the book's soothing powers!

Other books to consider

Mommy, Daddy, I Had a Bad Dream!

– Martha Heineman Pieper

Mommy, I Want to Sleep in Your Bed!

– Harriet Ziefert

Sammy the Elephant & Mr. Camel:

A Story to Help Children Overcome

Bedwetting

– Joyce C. Mills and Richard J. Crowley

The Sleep Fairy

– Janie Peterson



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The End





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