

Davis-Kidd



Recommends...

Books for Babies 0-3

We recommend board books. They are nearly indestructible, the small size makes them easy for baby to hold and also easy for Mom or Dad to read from with one hand while holding a baby in their lap. The stiff pages are also easy for babies to turn themselves.

Choose books with clear, simple pictures on clean, uncluttered backgrounds. Choose stories that center on a child's familiar world - eating, sleeping, bath, naming things, etc.

1. *Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle
2. *Barnyard Dance* by Sandra Boynton
3. *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown
4. *Chicka Chicka ABC* by Bill Martin
5. *Going on a Bear Hunt* by Helen Oxenbury
6. *Where's Spot* by Eric Hill
7. *The Monster at the End of this Book* by Jon Stone
8. *Goodnight Gorilla* by Peggy Rathman
9. *Jamberry* by Bruce Degen
10. *Tails* by Matthew Van Fleet

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Recommends...

Books for Kids 2-8

This age is all about picture books. For the younger end of this age range (2-3 year olds) you'll want to stick to stories that have only a few sentences on the page. Older kids can handle an entire page of words. Kids this age are developing a sense of humor, so silly stories are great choices. You can also start introducing stories with more complicated pictures that kids can pore over. One important criteria to consider is - will you enjoy reading it over and over again? If you don't like reading it once, you won't enjoy it on the hundredth read!

1. *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* by Jon Scieszka
2. *Bark George* by Jules Feiffer
3. *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak
4. *Knuffle Bunny* by Mo Willems
5. *Click Clack Moo* by Doreen Cronin
6. *Alexander and the Terrible Horrible No Good Very Bad Day* by Judith Viorst
7. *Snowy Day* by Jack Ezra Keats
8. *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* by Laura Numeroff
9. *Cars and Trucks and Things That Go* by Richard Scarry
10. *Fancy Nancy* by Jane O'Connor

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Recommends...

Books for Kids 6-9

At 6 years old most kids are beginning to read on their own, but their reading level will be far lower than their comprehension level for several years still, so you must continue to read aloud books that they can't read on their own yet. For actual beginning reader books look for a progression of difficulty. Start with a few easy to decipher words on each page with lots of rhyme and repetition and let kids progress to more difficult words and more words per page as their skills develop. Illustrations should be straightforward and help kids decode the words and make educated guesses.

1. *Junie B Jones* series
2. *Magic Tree House* series
3. *Captain Underpants* series
4. *Frog and Toad* series
5. *DK Eyewitness Readers* series
6. *Amelia Bedelia* series
7. *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss
8. *Time Warp Trio* series by Jon Scieszka
9. *Nate the Great* series
10. *Henry and Mudge* series

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Recommends...

Series books

Reading series books helps kids develop proficiency and a love of reading. Reading books in a series allows kids to jump into the action of a story with characters and a setting that they already know and enjoy. Enjoyment is essential for this age. If kids enjoy what they're reading, they'll read more. The more they read, the better they'll get. Some of the most popular series are built around themes that kids love, like horses, ghost stories, mysteries, etc.

1. *Spiderwick* Chronicles
2. *American Girl* series
3. *Encyclopedia Brown* series
4. *Nancy Drew/Hardy Boys* series
5. *Goosebumps* series
6. *Series of Unfortunate Events*
7. *Dear America* series
8. *Thoroughbred* series
9. *The Edge Chronicles*
10. *Geronimo Stilton* series

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Recommends...

Books for Kids 8-12

Most kids become confident independent readers sometime between 8-12, but their reading comprehension doesn't catch up to their listening comprehension until they turn 13, so it's important to keep reading aloud. By 8-12 most kids have enough reading experience to start to show a preference for different genres (fantasy, mystery, historical fiction, etc.) but many kids still switch around. Don't worry too much about challenging content or reading level, the most important thing while they're still building proficiency is to find books that kids will ENJOY reading. Encourage kids to look for more books by an author they enjoy, and let them re-read their favorites.

1. *Holes* by Louis Sachar
2. *Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling
3. *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen
4. *The BFG* by Roald Dahl
5. *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin
6. *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell
7. *Ramona Quimby* series by Beverly Cleary
8. *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
9. *Because of Winn Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo
10. *Toys Go Out* by Emily Jenkins

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Recommends...

Books for Kids 12 and up

By this age reading comprehension finally catches up to listening comprehension and many kids start jumping into the adult sections of the store, but they miss out on some great teen titles. Usually by the age genre preferences are pretty well established. Take your cues for subjects of interest from television and movie picks. If they like *Lost*, try some adventure novels. If they like *Lord of the Rings*, fantasy is a good bet. If they like *Ugly Betty*- look for contemporary fiction.

1. *A Northern Light*
2. *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
3. *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli
4. *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson
5. *The Golden Compass* by Phillip Pullman
6. *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card
7. *The Hobbit/Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien
8. *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* Ann Brashares
9. *Samurai Shortstop* by Alan Gratz
10. *Wildwood Dancing* by Juliet Marillier

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Recommends...

Non-Fiction

There's an abundance of material out there, and many kids prefer non-fiction to fiction. Look for outstanding illustrations and an interesting approach - something more than the kind of straightforward recitation of facts that kids will get from a textbook. Most non-fiction readers don't read systematically from the front to the back of the books, so look for lots of sidebars and smaller boxes and pockets of interesting information.

1. *The New Way Things Work*
2. *Klutz* books
3. *Eyewitness* series
4. *The World Almanac for Kids*
5. *Pick Me Up* by Roger Bridgman
6. *I Spy* series
7. *Castle* by David Macaulay
8. *Guinness Book of World Records*
9. *Eats, Shoots & Leaves: Why, Commas Really DO Make a Difference* by Lynne Truss
10. *Oh Yuck!* By Joy Masoff

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Recommends...

Poetry

Look for great illustrations, funny poetry, or easy to read aloud.

1. *Where the Sidewalk Ends* by Shel Silverstein
2. *Poetry Speaks To Children* by Elise Paschen
3. *The Real Mother Goose* by Blanche Wright
4. *If Not for the Cat* by Jack Prelutsky
5. *Child's Garden of Verse* by Robert Louis Stevenson
6. *A Family of Poems* by Caroline Kennedy
7. *Polka Bats and Octopus Slacks* by Calef Brown
8. *Random House Book of Poetry for Children* by Jack Prelutsky
9. *Mammalabilia* by Douglas Florian
10. *Casey at the Bat* by Ernest Thayer