

Surefire Read-Aloud Hits: The MO Building Block Picture Book Award

The Missouri Building Block Picture Book Award is sponsored by the Missouri Library Association's Youth Services Community of Interest. The Award was created to help Missouri public libraries focus on the importance of picture books to foster reading aloud to children. By reading aloud to children we encourage language development, pre-reading skills and development of visual perception/discrimination.

By offering this award's nominees each year we hope to provide parents, caregivers, and teachers of young children an introduction to a variety of authors and illustrators of quality books, with diverse themes, cultures and topics.

This past year, with thanks to schools and libraries across the state, we had over 18,000 children vote on the Building Block Award. With your help, we hope to continue to increase the number of children who participate next year and beyond.

More information on the Missouri Building Block Award, along with related books and activities to use with each nominee can be found at <http://molib.org/awards/building-block-award/>

If you're interested in participating in the Building Block committee, either as a member/reader or as a listener, please feel free to contact Hilary Aid, 2017 Chair haid@dbrl.org

How to Vote:

The voting period runs from September 1 until December 31. The award is designed for kindergarteners and younger, but any child who benefits from the Building Block Award may vote for their favorite title from the list. Children must listen to at least 5 of the 10 nominees before voting. The easiest way to vote, either as an individual or a classroom is to access the Google document on our website. (Either go to <http://molib.org/awards/building-block-award/> and click on "online ballot" or you can go directly there at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScDwU7DveekB7JPDSiu-SLp6JP97TzFZICZMX4L801ihab8YA/viewform>

If you can't access our Google doc, feel free to harass the Awards Chair:

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The 2017 Nominees

I. *Lion Lessons*/ by Jon Agee

Notes on the Book

1. Jon Agee writes books with a very dry humor. His books tend to work better with 4-6 year-olds than 2-3 year-olds.
2. This book is plot and character driven. It contains a fun twist at the end and does a good job of describing the characteristics of lions, particularly in comparison to people.

More Related Titles

I Spy with my Little Eye by Gibbs

What's Wrong with my Hair? by Kitamura

Literacy Tip:

Playing with animal sounds is playing with language and will increase vocabulary and help your child get ready to read.

Crafts and Activities

1. Create a Paper plate lion mask <http://www.naturallyeducational.com/2011/03/march-lion-and-lamb-masks/> then have everyone act out the lion lessons—Stretch, Look Fierce, Roar, Choose What to Eat, Prowl, Run in Place, Pounce.
2. Read *We're Going on a Lion Hunt* either adapted by Margery Cuyler or by David Axtell then act out the lion hunt.
3. Sing and act out *If You're a _____ and You Know it!*
If you're an elephant and you know it, STOMP your feet
If you're an alligator and you know it, SNAP your jaws
If you're a frog and you know it, JUMP up and down
If you're a lion and you know it, give a ROAR!

II. *Marta! Big and Small*/ written by Jen Arena; illustrated by Angela Dominguez

Notes on the Book

1. Although the Building Block committee's primary focus is to expose kids to good read-aloud books, occasionally we stumble across books that do a very good job of supporting educational objectives. *Marta...* is very strong in three areas: a) it introduces kids to some basic Spanish vocabulary (mainly adjectives and animal nouns); b) it helps support understanding of opposites; and c) it introduces the concept of perspective.
2. There are many sites that you can go to hear the pronunciation of foreign words. <https://www.howtopronounce.com/> is a good one.

Other English/Spanish Books

Eight Animals on the Town by Susan Elya

Oh No! Gotta Go by Susan Elya

Uno, Dos, Tres=One, Two, Three by Pat Mora

Te Amo, Bebe, Little One by Lisa Wheeler

Other Books about Opposites

A Kiss Means I Love You by Kathryn Madeline Allen

Opposites by Sandra Boynton

Double Take: a new look at opposites by Susan Hood

Opposites by Ingrid Schubert

Black, White, Day, Night by Laura Vaccaro

Literacy Tip:

We are going to read and sing a lot about opposites today. When we demonstrate opposites with motions we help kids to understand the concepts.

Crafts and Activities

1. Sorting opposites <http://www.rockabyebutterfly.com/2012/01/sorting-opposites.html>

Collect some hard objects and some soft objects. Set out two bins. Have children sort the objects. Could also do light and heavy; small and large. If you have a water table, they could sort things that sink or float.

2. Sing *Roly Poly* to the tune of *Frere Jaques*

Roly poly, roly poly

Roly poly, roly poly

Roly poly, roly poly

Up, up, up

out, out, out

fast, fast, fast

up, up, up

out, out, out

fast, fast, fast

Roly roly poly

down, down, down

in, in, in

slow, slow, slow

down, down, down

in, in, in

slow, slow, slow

3. Make English/Spanish picture flash cards for the kids to take home and practice.

III. *There's a Giraffe in my Soup* by Ross Burach

Notes on the Book

1. This is an absurdist book that is a bit difficult (for Ron) to read aloud. It seems to work best if read at a frantic pace and with the waiter having a silly French accent.

2. This book provides ample opportunities to further print awareness. The waiter speaks in italics and the child speaks in regular roman text. Also, there is a great variety in print size and color (which emphasizes the chaotic nature of the book.)

Books with Zoo Animals

The Zoo is Closed Today by Evelyn Beilenson

The Way to the Zoo by John Burningham

The Opposite Zoo by Il Sung Na

Our Class Took a Trip to the Zoo by Shirley Neitzel

Goodnight Gorilla by Peggy Rathman

My Dad at the Zoo by Coralie Saudo

If I Ran the Zoo by Dr. Seuss

A Sick Day for Amos McGee by Philip Stead

Animal Strike at the Zoo. It's True! by Karma Wilson

Other Giraffe Books

I Am Not a Chair by Ross Burach

Giraffes Ruin Everything by Heidi Schulz

Other Soup Books

The Potato King by Christoph Niemann

Tiger in My Soup by Kashmira Sheth

Crafts and Activities

1. Spaghetti painting is one of my favorite crafts which I find an excuse for every six months or so.

<http://www.instructables.com/id/How-to-use-spaghetti-to-paint-like-Jackson-Pollock/> provides on description of how you can do it.

2. http://www.momjunction.com/articles/fun-and-innovative-vegetable-paintings_00104272/#gref has a variety of vegetable prints.

3. Sing *Spots, Spots, Spots* from Jbrary

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cvUKufoeOs&index=15&list=PLcw3Y8sV0xpsggxqBnkTFRPAJdVkpEG_d

Spots, spots, spots, spots, spots, spots, spots, spots

A giraffe has lots of spots, what a lot of spots he got

A tiger's stripes are always nice, but a giraffe has lots of spots

Spots, spots, spots, spots, spots, spots, spots, spots

IV. *There's a Bear on My Chair*/ by Ross Collins

Notes on the Book

1. This is a very good book for working on phonological awareness. It contains another 20 words that rhyme with “bear” and “chair.”

2. Older kids (age 4-5) can try to fill in the final word in each sentence, based on context clues and the fact that it rhymes with “bear.” This is especially true on a second or third reading.

Literacy Tip:

We did a lot of rhyming today. Rhyming is a great way to play with language and get your child ready to read!

Other Rhyming Books

A Boy and His Bunny by Sean Bryan

Have You Seen My New Blue Socks by Eve Bunting

Rhyming Dust Bunnies by Jan Thomas

Other Bear Books

Mom, There's a Bear at the Door by Sabine Lipan

Where is Bear? by Jonathan Bentley

Crafts and Activities

1. Shaving Cream Polar Bear – Mix equal parts of glue and shaving cream and cover a paper plate with the mixture using a paintbrush, craft stick, spoon, or your hand. While the shaving cream is wet (which it will be for many hours) add cut out black circles for eyes and a nose and white half-circles for the ears.

<http://www.greenkidcrafts.com/shaving-cream-polar-bear/> or <http://parentingchaos.com/shaving-cream-polar-bear-craft/>

2. Karen Cox has many great rhyming games at <http://www.prekinders.com/rhyme/>

This site has free downloads for rhyming match game cards.

3. Sing *Put Your Finger on Your Nose* (adaptation of Woody Guthrie's *Put Your Finger in the Air*). You can find the melody here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_Z_MokvCE4
When I do the song, the lyrics always change because I ask the kids to select a body part where we can put our finger and a rhyming word.
4. Play with rhyming words by using the felt game *Little Mouse, Little Mouse*
Little mouse, little mouse
Are you in the _____ house?
Where is little mouse hiding?
5. Sing *The Bear Went Over the Mountain* using sign language.

V. *Dragon was Terrible*/ written by Kelly DiPucchio; illustrated by Greg Pizzoli

Notes on the Book

1. This book has many elements of traditional fairy tales, such as the notion that it often takes three times to solve a problem. The familiar plot structure makes this accessible for a wider range of students. The plot gives kids opportunities to predict what will happen next or to put events in order.
2. This is a good book for discussing character and character development. Why does Dragon stop being terrible?

Crafts and Activities

1. Create a Dragon Hat by using the instructions for a Paper Dinosaur Hat from "Cutting Tiny Bites"
<http://www.cuttingtinybites.com/2014/09/diy-paper-dinosaur-hat.html>
2. Create a Fire-Breathing Dragon from "One Little Project" <http://onelittleproject.com/paper-roll-dragon-craft/#ixzz4YnxnbvFN>
3. Do this action rhyme:
How do you feed a dragon who is tall, tall, tall?
When you're just a little kid who is small, small, small.
If you could stand on tiptoes even though you are little,
The dragon could bend down and meet you in the middle!

Literacy Tip:

Tiptoeing helps to develop good balancing skills. Make sure your child is walking on tiptoes, not the sides of his/her feet, and try this rhyme at home too.

Books about Bad Behavior

How Do Dinosaurs... by Jane Yolen

Rex Wrecks It by Ben Clanton

If You're a Monster and You Know It by Rebecca & Ed Emberley

Edwardo: The Horriblest Boy in the Whole Wide World by John Burningham

More Dragon Books

OH NO, Little Dragon! by Jim Averbeck

How to Dress a Dragon by Thelma Lynne Godin

Have You Seen My Dragon? by Steve Light

See him read it here <https://kidlit.tv/2016/03/read-out-loud-steve-light-reads-have-you-seen-my-dragon/>

VI. *Wolfie the Bunny*/ written by Ame Dyckman; illustrated by Zachariah OHora

Notes on the Book

1. There are three voices in this story – Mama Bunny, Papa Bunny, and the young bunny, Dot. They generally speak in the same order with Mama making a statement, Papa supporting the statement, and Dot making an impassioned counter-argument. In this way, the plot structure is like *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* except *Wolfie*'s dominant parent is the mother.
2. Dot's concerns are continuously ignored by her parents. Kids should be able to relate to this.
3. This book works well in units on different types of families, accepting a new sibling, or accepting people who are different than you.

Crafts and Activities

1. One of the things I like about the art in this book is the way Zachariah OHora draws fur. It reminds me a little bit of painting with plastic forks. You can find a prickly porcupine here <http://www.preschoolplaybook.com/2009/05/prickly-porcupine.html> and many other cool fork painting ideas here: <http://www.emmaowl.com/22-fork-painting-ideas-for-kids/>
2. I don't like crafts that require the teacher to pre-cut a bunch of shapes for a group of preschoolers. However, this wolf craft doesn't require much cutting. You just need paper plates, glue, tissue paper, and a little construction paper.
<http://gluedtomycraftsblog.com/2015/04/paper-plate-wolf-kid-craft.html>
3. Learn how to draw Wolfie - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eub8t9Y0B8g>
4. Sing and act out *Did You Ever See a Bunny?* (tune: *Did You Ever See a Lassie?*)

Did you ever see a bunny, a bunny, a bunny,
Did you ever see a bunny, hop this way and that?
Hop this way and that way? Hop this way and that way?
Did you ever see a bunny, hop this way and that?

Did you ever see a bunny, a bunny, a bunny,
Did you ever see a bunny, that bounced quite this slow?
Bounce this way and that way?
Bounce this way and that way?
Did you ever see a bunny, that bounced quite this slow?

Did you ever see a bunny, a bunny, a bunny,
Did you ever see a bunny, that hopped quite this fast?
Fast this way and that way? Fast this way and that way?
Did you ever see a bunny, that hopped quite this fast?

Literacy Tip:

Moving to music, dancing, swaying, and jumping help young children feel rhythm and begin to understand how their bodies work. Such movements also help them gain muscle control and improve balance. All of this contributes to a child's gross motor development.

Clever Books with Wolves

Wolf Won't Bite by Emily Gravett

Wolves by Emily Gravett

Wolf's Coming by Joe Kulka

Huff and Puff by Claudia Rueda

More Books About Not Wanting to be Eaten

Bunnies!!! by Kevan Attebery

Little Bunny Foo Foo by Paul Brett Johnston

Buddy and the Bunnies in Don't Play With Your Food by Bob Shea

Gorilla! Gorilla! by Jeanne Willis

VII. *Old MacDonald had a Truck*/ written by Steve Goetz; illustrated by Eda Kaban

Notes on the Book

1. This book can, and should, be sung to the tune of "Old MacDonald." The familiar cadence and melody help make it more accessible to kids.
2. This book is very appealing to that set of kids who are fascinated by construction and farming machines.
3. There are lots of different fonts to increase kids' print awareness. For those caregivers who are introducing the alphabet, the "E-I-E-I-O" particularly stands out.

Crafts and Activities

1. Cut out a variety of squares, rectangles, circles, and triangles. Let the children glue the shapes on paper to create a truck. For example, see "No Time for Flashcards" Shape Bulldozer Craft.

<http://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2010/08/shape-bulldozer.html>

2. Paint using toy trucks as the "paint brushes." See "Munchkins and Moms" Tractor Painting

<http://munchkinsandmoms.com/tractor-painting/>

3. Create a vehicle out of pasta noodles. Parents magazine shows a train made of all kinds of pasta

<http://www.parents.com/fun/arts-crafts/kid/pasta-crafts/?page=3#page=3>

4. Songs to sing with this book:

Old MacDonald Had a Farm

18 Wheels on a Big Rig by Trout Fishing in America

Poor Little Broken Truck by Caspar Babypants

5. Print out pictures of these tractors with magnets on the back and do this rhyme from SRP' 17

Four big machines at the construction site
Worked, worked, worked with all their might!
The foreman called the dump truck away.
Then three big machines were left that day.

Books with an Old MacDonald Twist

Old MacDonald Had a Dragon by Ken Baker

Punk Farm by Jarrett Krosoczka

Jo MacDonald Had a Garden by Mary Quattlebaum

Old MacDonald Had a Woodshop by Lisa Shulman

Literacy Tip:

You can play with language at home by changing the words to familiar songs. Let your kids come up with new ideas for old songs.

VIII. *Frog on a Log?* / written by Kes Gray; illustrated by Jim Field**Notes on the Book**

1. Because of repetition, rhymes, and pictures, this is a terrific book for audience participation. Many of the rhymes get introduced and then repeated later. So, after you've read, "Cat's sit on mats," the next time it comes up you leave off the "mats" and let the kids fill in.

Cats sit on _____

Hares sit on _____

Mules sit on _____

Gophers sit on _____

And frogs sit on _____

2. Some of the pairs don't rhyme (gophers and sofas, gorillas and pillars.) This provides a good opportunity to focus on listening and rhyming (gophers really rhymes with sofers, gorillas really rhymes with pillas.)

3. Often kids get upset because someone is not playing or doing something "the right way." They have an overly rigid sense of what is right and proper. The cat in this story has similar issues.

Songs

Down by the Bay - Learning Station version <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yt1czlnCUCg>

Raffi has a version <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-CSxGHve60E>

More Related Books

Stick by Steve Breen

Leaps and Bounce by Susan Hood

Crafts and Activities

1. Make a 5 Green and Speckled Frogs paper towel tube prop.

2. Play with letter sounds by doing this rhyme:

I'm a hungry little frog swimming all around.

I just ate a [B], so I'm making silly sounds.

When I have something important to say,

I open my mouth and [bibbit] all day!

[Bibbit, bibbit, bibbit. Bibbit, bibbit, bibbit].

I open my mouth and [bibbit] all day!

Literacy Tip:

Playing with animal sounds is playing with language and helps your child with language development. And it encourages your child to participate when you join in, so Ribbit along with us!

IX. *Still a Gorilla*/ written by Kim Norman; illustrated by Chad Geran

Notes on the Book:

1. One of the reasons this book is accessible is that it supports our animal archetypes. (Lions roar with pride, walruses have long teeth, billy goats head butt, alligators creep and chomp.) This makes it a good book to use with units on animals.
2. There are good opportunities for classroom participation with the repetition of, “No, still a gorilla.”

Related Books

Alligator Baby by Robert Munsch

Ding Dong! Gorilla! by Michelle Robinson

Crafts and Activities

1. Tippytoecrafts had an interesting idea for comparing a gorilla’s handprint with a child’s. They made a template of the gorilla handprint from Steve Jenkins’ book *Actual Size* and cut in out on black construction paper. Children would then use a light-colored finger paint and put their handprint on top of the gorilla’s.

<http://tippytoecrafts.blogspot.com/2014/08/gorilla-me-handprints.html?m=1>

2. Sing *Wag Your Tail* (sung in a similar melody as “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”)

<http://supersimplelearning.com/songs/themes-series/animals/wag-your-tail/>

Clap clap clap your hands
Clap your hands with me.
Clap them fast. Clap them slow
Clap your hands with me.

Wag your tail like a dog (spoken)
Wag wag wag your tail
Wag your tail with me.
Wag it fast. Wag it slow.
Wag your tail with me.

(Continue with the following actions)

Thump your chest like a gorilla
Bend your knees like a camel
Wiggle your ears like a hippopotamus

3. Sing and act out *Boom Diddy Gorilla* - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGaMah402sE>

4. Make Animal Action Dice

Literacy Tip:

This is an easy activity to do at home. Just take a box like a square tissue box and tape animal pictures on the sides, then you can play this game at home.

X. *10 Little Ninjas*/ written by Miranda Paul; illustrated by Nate Wragg

Notes on the Book

1. This is a remake of *Five Little Monkeys Jumping on a Bed*. Like *Five Little Monkeys...* it has a nice, steady rhythm. Familiarity with *Five Little Monkeys...* should make *10 Little Ninjas* accessible to most kids.

Crafts and Activities

1. Ninja Headbands--Doodlecraft has an inexpensive do-it-yourself headband idea:

<http://www.doodlecraftblog.com/2015/06/ninja-headbands.html#>

Children could choose specific headbands or create their own:

Shark: <http://glitzyinfirstgrade.blogspot.com/search/label/Sharks>

Pirate: <http://www.toddler-activities-and-tips.com/pirate-crafts-for-kids.html>

Monster headband could be turned into anything: <http://www.fantasticfunandlearning.com/headband-monster-craft-kids.html>

2. Decorate a pair of pajamas—could use crayons, markers, or paper scraps and glue

Sample at Awesome Story Time <https://awesomestorytime.wordpress.com/2009/02/19/its-bedtime/>

3. Sing –

♪*Ten in a Bed* (several versions on YouTube) and Laurie Berkner has a version with 5 in the Bed

♪*Zoom, Zoom, Zoom, We're Going to the Moon* is a good song for counting backwards. Jbrary has a good version at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tMJ9pZ9W7jc>

♪*Hello Friends*, tune: *Goodnight Ladies*

do a second verse with Konichiwa and talk about how Ninjas originate in Japan

Hello, friends,

Hello, friends,

Hello, friends.

It's time to say "Hello" (or ...sign "Hello" if you're using sign language)

Literacy Tip:

We are going to use sign language in all of our songs today. And learn a little Japanese. Learning words in other languages helps with brain development. And it's much easier to learn when you are young!

Book Pairings

Characteristics of Animals: *Lion Lessons; Wolfie the Bunny; Still a Gorilla*

Books with a Variety of Animals: *Marta! Big and Small; There's a Giraffe in My Soup; Frog on a Log?; Still a Gorilla*

Rhyming Words: *There's a Bear on My Chair; Frog on a Log?*

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