

young lady, especially in her more mischievous moments. With the recurring use of "please," the meaning of that lovely word has a better chance of being learned and instilled. Sequel: *Please, Puppy, Please*.

TEN LITTLE FINGERS AND TEN LITTLE TOES BY MEM FOX; HELEN OXENBURY, ILLUS.
36 pages Harcourt, 2008

Two widely accepted facts among early childhood educators that are little-known to parents (and grandparents): 1) Children gravitate first to rhyming words (thus the success of Mother Goose and Dr. Seuss); and 2) Children gravitate to images of other children, especially babies to babies, and even responding empathically to their cries. Apply the above facts to this book and you end up with a nearly perfect picture book.

THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR
BY ERIC CARLE
38 pages Philomel, 1969

What an ingenious book! It is, at the same time, a simple, lovely way to teach a child the days of the week, how to count to five, and how a caterpillar becomes a butterfly. First, this is a book to look at—bright, bright pictures. Then it is something whose pages beg to be turned—pages that have little round holes in them made by the hungry little caterpillar. And as the number of holes grow, so does the caterpillar. Other books by the author: *The Grouchy Ladybug; Mister Seahorse; The Very Busy Spider*.

THE SUPER HUNGRY DINOSAUR
BY MARTIN WADDELL; LEONIE LORD, ILLUSTRATOR
32 pages Dial, 2009

A little boy and his dog are playing in the backyard when a hungry dinosaur arrives and announces he's going to eat up the boy. The ensuing tale details how the lad and his dog outwit and tame the dinosaur. Eventually the boy's mother and father meet the dinosaur and the damage done by the dinosaur is repaired by the exasperated creature before he can have lunch (cooked by Mom). Martin Waddell uses the same simple storytelling here that made his earlier book *Owl Babies* so successful and illustrator Leonie Lord turns what could have been a threatening story into an exciting but nonthreatening adventure.

YOU CAN DO IT, SAM (SERIES) by Amy Hest
28 pages Candlewick, 2005

If a picture book series ever deserved the adjective "cozy," this is it. In this, the third book in the series, Mrs. Bear and her cub Sam are baking little cakes together, licking bowls, packing the cakes, and finally driving through the snow to deliver them as surprises to neighbors. The title comes from Sam's concern over whether he can carry each package all the way to the doorstep all by himself. Also in the series: *Kiss Good Night; Don't You Feel Well, Sam?*

A list of several hundred other titles can be found in the Treasury of Read-Alouds in *The Read-Aloud Handbook* by Jim Trelease (Penguin)



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Jim Trelease's Web site:
www.trelease-on-reading.com

READ-ALoud PICTURE BOOKS: INFANTS TO TODDLERS

BY JIM TRELEASE

Author of the New York Times Bestseller
The Read-Aloud Handbook



TIPS FOR READING ALOUD TO THIS AGE GROUP

1. Your main objective is to teach your child to love the printed word; 2. Pretend you're having a party to introduce the world to your child and books are the guests you're introducing; 3. Attention spans are built over pages and pages, not overnight; 4. Caress the child while reading; 5. Point to objects on the page while reading; 6. The story becomes clearer with repeat readings; 7. Board books are meant to be handled and chewed on; 8. make certain times ritually story times — bed time, bath time, potty time, nap time, or snack time.

Usually books stay in print only a few years, *especially* for this age group. But even an out-of-print (OP) title can be freely borrowed from your local library (or your library can borrow it from *other* libraries). If you wish to own the book, inexpensive used-copies (including OP) can be found at Web sites like bookfinder.com or Amazon. New copies (but not out OP) can be purchased at your local bookstore.

BROWN BEAR, BROWN BEAR, WHAT DO YOU SEE ?

BY BILL MARTIN, JR.; ERIC CARLE, ILLUSTRATOR

24 pages Holt, 1983

This classic predictable book follows the question through various animals and colors. Sequel: *Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?*

CORDUROY BY DON FREEMAN

32 pages Viking, 1968

In this beloved story, a teddy bear searches through a department store for a friend. His quest ends when a little girl buys him with

her piggy-bank savings. By the author: *A Pocket for Corduroy*; and *Beady Bear*.

THE EVERYTHING BOOK BY DENISE FLEMING

64 pages Holt, 2000

After Mother Goose, all new parents should have this terrific book about everything important to a child—animals, shapes, colors, rhymes, finger games, food, faces, letters, traffic, and toys. The art is a feast for the eyes.

THE FOOT BOOK BY DR. SEUSS

28 pages Random House, 1968

Most of Dr. Seuss's books are aimed at kindergarten and older, but here is one of the more accessible ones for toddlers, mainly because the subject is so near (eighteen inches away) to the child's heart: feet! No plot but lots of repetition, rhyme, and Seussian illustrations.

GOOD JOB, LITTLE BEAR (SERIES)

BY MARTIN WADDELL; BARBARA FRITH, ILLUS.

32 pages Candlewick, 2002

The last line of this book, "I'll be there when you need me—always," sums up what this entire series is about: the relationship between parent and child (big bear and little bear). Each volume explores the warm interactions between the two, in their cave and in the forest, making the series the epitome of "cozy" and bedtime companion. Other books in the series: *Can't You Sleep, Little Bear?*; *Let's Go Home, Little Bear*; *You and me, Little Bear*; and *Sleep Tight, Little Bear*.

GOODNIGHT MOON BY MARGARET WISE BROWN; CLEMENT HURD, ILLUSTRATOR

30 pages Harper, 1947

This classic is based on a bedtime ritual, sure to be copied by every child who hears it. Also

by the author: *The Important Book*; *The Runaway Bunny*; and *Sailor Dog*. Related bedtime books for infants and toddlers: *Can't You Sleep, Little Bear?* by Martin Waddell; *Good Night, Gorilla* by Peggy Rathman; and *Max's Bedtime* by Rosemary Wells.

THE NAPPING HOUSE

BY AUDREY WOOD; DON WOOD, ILLUSTRATOR

28 pages Harcourt, 1984

One of the cleverest bedtime books for children, this simple tale depicts a cozy bed on which are laid in cumulative rhymes a snoring granny, dreaming child, dozing dog, and a host of other sleeping characters until a sudden awakening at daybreak.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD MOTHER GOOSE

PHOTOGRAPHED BY NINA CREWS

64 pages Dutton, 1989

Nina Crews took her camera into urban America and coupled Mother Goose with children of every hue, making it a rainbow's worth of traditional nursery rhymes peopled by children who have been traditionally excluded from such volumes. Other Mother Goose collections: *Lucy Cousins' Book of Nursery Rhymes* by Lucy Cousins; and *Pio Peep! Traditional Spanish Nursery Rhymes* selected by Alma Flor Ada and F. Isabel Campoy.

PLEASE, BABY, PLEASE

BY SPIKE AND TONYA LEWIS LEE;

KADIR NELSON, ILLUSTRATOR

28 pages Simon & Schuster 2002

This talented husband and wife author-team offers a witty but true-to-life picture of a rambunctious toddler's day, following her many moods from daybreak to bedtime. Toddlers will love seeing themselves in this