



READING CORNERS

Program Guide

This unique Raising Readers in Story County (RRSC) program provides literacy-rich areas in public reception rooms to encourage families with young children to enjoy books together while they wait. In 2008 RRSC created a Reading Corners Toolkit. RRSC now maintains 23 Reading Corners in the county, including one at each Reach Out and Read clinic site. Public Reading Corners are intended to increase both the time children and families spend reading and their exposure to good quality books.



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The Need for Reading Corners

Think of a waiting room where parents and their young children are waiting for services or an appointment. How do they pass the time? Are the adults watching TV? Checking messages on their phone? Thumbing through outdated magazines? Are the children apprehensive? Bored? Restless? Distracted by playing on their own mobile devices? Watching TV? When families are preoccupied in these ways, they are missing opportunities to interact with each other and discover ideas through books.

RRSC Reading Corners



Raising Readers in Story County (RRSC) developed Reading Corners to transform waiting rooms into reading rooms that feature a variety of interesting books. In 2002 the Rotary Club of Ames Morning created a first Reading Corner in the Pediatrics waiting room of McFarland Clinic in Ames. Then RRSC adopted and expanded the project. RRSC currently maintains over 23 Reading Corners in Story County.

Reading Corners encourage adults to read with their children, even if just for a few minutes. Those minutes add up to hours of learning and pleasure. When adults and children read aloud and talk together about good quality books, they are building children's literacy skills and the background knowledge needed for comprehension. Reading together also strengthens relationships. When families bond through books, the joy of reading will stay with children throughout school and life.

All young children and families benefit from Reading Corners in public waiting rooms such as doctors' and dentists' offices. However, RRSC makes an extra effort to locate Reading Corners in places frequented by families living with low-incomes and by children who probably have few books at home. Possible sites include public health clinics, human service agencies, trailer courts, community rooms in affordable housing, food pantries, laundromats, and barber shops.

The traditional RRSC Reading Corner consists of a display bookcase, a collection of about 40 good quality children’s books, a rocking chair, and a framed poster or sign promoting reading. If space is limited, it could be as simple as a basket of children’s books.

Desired Results and Indicators

Reading Corners contribute to our desired result of “Story County Children Read to Succeed,” by making good books accessible and promoting family reading.

Our leading indicator of progress is the percent of children entering kindergarten with basic language and literacy skills associated with reading success in school as measured by school districts. Our lagging indicator is the percent of third grade students reading at grade level as measured by school districts.

Examples of Performance Measures

- Number of Reading Corners
- Percentage of existing medical and human service sites with Reading Corners
- Number of books provided annually to Reading Corners
- Staff reports that adults and children spend more time reading books when there are Reading Corners than they did before Reading Corners
- Photos of children and families enjoying the Reading Corners
- Number of volunteer hours spent on Reading Corners

Starting a Reading Corner

RRSC Step 1: Identify literacy needs

Interview local agencies to learn about the number and demographics of families they serve in order to determine the need for Reading Corners.

These are some questions you could ask as part of a needs assessment.

- Are their adult clients who have young children employed? How many have an average annual income below the Federal Poverty Level? Are they receiving welfare?
- What percentage are single parents?
- What are their primary languages?
- What percentages are Black, Hispanic, Asian, White, or more than one race?
- Do they live in low-income neighborhoods? Are some homeless?
- Are some food-insecure?
- How many children from birth through age eight do these families have? Approximately, what percent are babies and toddlers, preschoolers, and elementary students?
- Where do they go for medical care? Do they have insurance?
- Who are their children's caregivers?
- Do the children from age three to five attend preschool?
- How often do families come to the organization's site?
- Do families bring their children to the organization's site?
- How much time do families spend in the waiting room?
- If there is a TV, would staff turn it off and encourage reading?
- Are staff members willing to participate in an orientation about children's books and how adults can nurture early literacy?

RRSC Step 2: Plan

1. Form a Reading Corners Team.
2. RRSC and staff at each site together develop a personalized plan that reflects the existing space and the languages, cultures, and interests of families served. Consider book storage, comfortable seating, lighting, flooring, carpet, wall art, murals or posters, child-size table and chairs, signage, and other literacy-related resources for children and parents.
3. Books are the heart of a Reading Corner. Choose an assortment of high quality children's books that appeals to various ages, interests, and

cultures. A typical RRSC collection includes 10 board books, 10 multicultural picture books, 10 funny picture books, 5 other picture books, and 5 nonfiction books.

4. Develop a maintenance plan for the Reading Corners.
5. Develop an evaluation plan.
6. Develop a budget and proposed sources of funds.

RRSC Step 3: Implement

1. Seek funding. Reading Corners are good options for grants or one-time donations.
2. Order a collection of books. RRSC purchases books in local stores and orders online from publishers. A local librarian could help order books.
3. Label the books. Laminate hard cover books for durability.
4. Decide how to display the books. RRSC prefers a front-facing display bookcase for maximum visibility. A bookcase 36-inches wide by 30-inches high can hold about 40 books. You might start with a donated bookshelf or ask a local carpenter make multiple bookcases. A simple basket of books may work best in a small space.
5. Help maintain established Reading Corners. Twice a year RRSC team members visit the sites and replenish books as needed.
6. When making site visits, RRSC collects feedback and quotes from staff and families and takes photos with permission.
7. A nice idea is to schedule experienced volunteers to read with children when the waiting room is likely to be busy. They can model effective reading techniques and inspire families to use the Reading Corner.

RRSC Step 4: Assess

1. The Reading Corner team reports the number of site visits made and the number of books replenished and shares feedback, quotes and pictures with the RRSC Executive Director.

2. The Reading Corner team and Executive Director analyze the data and give a report to the RRSC board.

RRSC Step 5: Revise

1. RRSC uses data and feedback to update Reading Corners.
2. RRSC adds new Reading Corners when needs are identified and funds are available.

Benefits of Reading Corners

1. Having good quality books conveniently available promotes reading rather than watching TV, using mobile devices, or being bored.
2. Reading together promotes bonding as well as a love of books.
3. Children are more willing to go to appointments when they know there are interesting books available.
4. Community members are reminded of the importance of reading to children when they see good books and adults and children reading together.

Possible Challenges of Reading Corners

1. High quality hard-cover books are expensive.
2. High quality books representing the diversity of local families
3. Books need to be replenished when they are damaged or lost.
4. Dedicated individuals need to provide ongoing maintenance. Agency staff appreciate the Reading Corners, but often don't have expertise or time to maintain them

Frequently Asked Questions

How do Reading Corners contribute to early literacy?

Public Reading Corners send a message about how much our community values reading and how important it is to make reading with children a regular habit starting in their earliest years. Organizations, agencies and businesses are participating in this worthy cause. Together we are inspiring families to share good books with their children and experience the delights and benefits of reading. Please see **Appendix A** for **Planning a Reading Corner**.

What books are good for Reading Corners?

Please see **Appendix B** for RRSC suggestions for **Books for Reading Corners**.

What do Reading Corners cost?

Reading Corners require a start-up investment, which could vary from a basket of gently used books to a top-notch installation of \$1,000 or more. After the installation, costs are mainly for replacement books and expenses associated with regular maintenance visits and assessments.

Good quality new books for a beginning collection of 40 books may average up to \$10 - \$15 each, totaling \$400-\$600. A local library, school, or business might help laminate hard cover books. A new front-facing bookcase might be about \$300. A local carpenter might help. Seating could be a rocking chair, a glider, bean bags (\$15 each), or existing chairs in the waiting room.

ESTIMATED COSTS TO SPONSOR A FIRST CLASS READING CORNER

Book collection (40 books averaging \$8 each)	\$ 320
Book labels and laminating book covers	\$ 25
Display bookshelf	\$ 270
Rocking chair	\$ 80
Wall posters (framed)	\$ 100
Framed dedication sign	\$ 45
Area rug (Very Hungry Caterpillar 5' x 4' shipped)	<u>\$ 160</u>
Total	\$1,000

How do you raise funds for a Reading Corner?

Consider inviting a service club, business, book club, or other local group to adopt your Reading Corner. They could contribute cash to purchase new books.

Another option would be to organize a book donation program and invite staff, clients, family and friends to choose a new book from your wish list to purchase for the Reading Corner. Prepare labels or book plates to recognize the donors.

A Reading Corner is a good candidate for a grant application since it's a one-time expenditure that is visible.

A Reading Corner is an appealing project to do in memory of or in honor of a special person. After the initial funding, it will be an ongoing visible tribute with only limited maintenance costs.

APPENDIX A



“Helping Children Grow Up with Books and a Love of Reading”

PLANNING A READING CORNER



Before



After

Books, book storage, and seating are the basic requirements for a Reading Corner.

Children's books are so appealing! There are literally thousands to choose from. How do you find the best books for your situation? Children's librarians and teachers will be glad to advise you. Your public library will have books about books and suggestions for outstanding books for children. There are also book suggestions from Raising Readers in Story County (RRSC) in Appendix A and Appendix B of this Reading Corners Guide.

Create a Site Plan

Take photos, including some from a child's eye level. Make a rough sketch of the area. Take measurements and record them on the sketch. Remember the vertical height. Note all fixed features: doors, windows, heating and cooling units, electrical outlets, built-in counters, etc. Use graph paper to make a scale drawing, including the fixed features. This gives you a "bird's eye" view of the space.

Reading Corner Furnishings

What are your minimum requirements? You can start with just books, some kind of book storage and a place to sit. You may also consider seating for adults, child-sized tables and chairs, lighting, wall-mounted displays, art work, wall treatments, floor coverings, and a display of resources for adults.

Furnishings should be attractive, pleasing to the eye and touch, sturdy and durable, washable, quality workmanship, safe for use by children, and cost effective. Book storage units that display books face out encourage browsing. Keep some board books at child-level for babies and toddlers. Rounded corners are safer and a wide base prevents tipping when toddlers climb.

Seating

Parents and children will be using the Reading Corner, both together and independently. You may want a big comfy chair that makes it easy for an adult to hold a child or two on his or her lap. A rocking chair or glider is especially comfortable for parents or volunteer readers. Bean bags, floor cushions, and a child-sized table with chairs are also good seating options.

Lighting

What sources of light are already in place? Think about light from windows at different times of day and in different seasons: too much? not enough? You may need window shades or supplemental lighting.

Floors

In a public space durable, washable floor coverings are particularly important. You'll probably be working with what is already in place. Think about colors, patterns and textures on floors. A rug might help define the area and add interest. Bright area rugs with alphabets and child-oriented designs are available from school and library suppliers.

Walls

Treatment of wall space can have a visual impact in your Reading Corner. Again, think about colors, patterns and textures. Fixed features such as doors and windows will help determine how to use the space. Get down on the floor to look at the walls from the perspective of small children. Provide outlet covers.

Border trims

An alphabet border is one example. Consult suppliers of school and library display materials. A paint store might offer a discontinued alphabet or nursery rhyme border on sale.

Murals

Working with a local artist, you might have a design sketched on a wall to be painted with the participation of clients, another way to strengthen ownership of the Reading Corner.

Literacy-related posters

Posters featuring illustrations from children's books, "reading is fun" slogans, or developmental milestones can reinforce your message. Framing of posters or other artwork may be done professionally, but there are less expensive options. Perhaps someone in your group is skilled at cutting mats, or you might cut a large sheet of construction paper or art paper as if it were a mat. A laminated poster can be wiped clean (especially important in a health care site) and will resist warping from changes in humidity. You may find suitable frames in a discount store. Molded plastic frames have the advantage of being lightweight. Don't get the kind of frame that is a sheet of glass held to a backing with small clips because children like to pull on clips.

Photographs

Photos of children are sure to attract attention. Could you take photos of your clients reading together? A mother reading to her baby? A toddler looking at a book? With parental permission, displaying photographs of the children who use this Reading Corner helps give them ownership of the space.

Display area for children's writing and art

Seeing their own work displayed will give children a sense of pride in their accomplishments. Could you provide a tackable wall surface? This might be a

bulletin board, a fabric-covered wall, or narrow strips of cork. Staples might be preferable to push pins for attaching children's work. Another option is a cord attached to the wall like a clothesline with clips or snap clothespins to hold pictures. In an area for babies and toddlers, be sure to consider safety.

Signage recognizing your donors

Recognizing donors is one way to express your appreciation and at the same time to encourage contributions from others.

Other language and literacy resources for children

- Writing supplies. Reading and writing go hand in hand.
- Alphabet blocks help build awareness of letter sounds.
- Heavy-duty alphabet puzzle mats of thick foam help children learn letter sounds.
- Labels on familiar items in the room build vocabulary.
- Hand puppets encourage storytelling.
- Handmade scrapbook of laminated calendar pages or magazine pictures of children and families, familiar objects, and nature. These can stimulate conversation between parents and children.
- Gently used books with a sign inviting families to choose one and take it home.

Family resources

A bulletin board would be a place to feature announcements and some types of materials. Clear plastic countertop displays available at office supply stores could hold brochures. Library supply companies sell a wide variety of free-standing racks, wall-mounted displays, and countertop displays sized to hold brochures and magazines. Bookshelves or display shelves could hold magazines and books for parents. Consider providing this information:

- Children's early language and literacy development
- Tips for nurturing language and literacy development at home
- Public library hours, children's programs, resources
- Lists of age-appropriate books for children
- Local adult and family literacy programs
- Local ESL programs and GED programs
- Local agencies and organizations providing support for families

- Books and magazines: Parents are good role models when their children see them enjoying books and magazines.

What do you need and what do you already have? Perhaps your agency has a storage area that might contain usable items. You might find a volunteer to build a bookcase or get help from a vocational school looking for projects. Look at second hand stores and yard sales. Check out commercially available furnishings in catalogs and online.

Draw furnishings to scale on a separate sheet of graph paper, cut them out, and move them around on your drawing. Think about the look and feel of the space, traffic flow, handicapped accessibility, natural light, need for additional lighting, artwork. Make a wish list for future enhancements.

Maintaining a Reading Corner

A public space already has a plan for routine cleaning, but your Reading Corner will need some additional care. Identify an onsite liaison to supervise the Reading Corner and report needs. RRSC has a team of volunteers who visit every one of the 23 Reading Corners in Story County twice a year. They get feedback from the liaison, remove damaged books, replenish the book inventory, and pick up any feedback surveys.

Mending and Cleaning Books

In general, mend a torn page with matte finish or frosted tape rather than shiny. However, if the page is glossy or coated, a gloss tape will be less noticeable. Don't use cellophane tape because it turns yellow and brittle.

Sometimes pencil and crayon marks can be removed without damage to print by using an art gum eraser.

If a book cover or board book gets sticky, try cleaning it with a damp cloth. A plastic coated surface can be wiped with glass cleaner or rubbing alcohol. To avoid removing the color, test a small area first.

APPENDIX B



“Helping Children Grow Up with Books and a Love of Reading”

BOOKS for READING CORNERS



A collection of 40 books fits nicely in a display bookcase that is about 30-inches high by 36-inches wide and 15-inches deep.

Children's books are so appealing! There are literally thousands to choose from. How do you find the best books for your situation? Children's librarians and teachers will be glad to advise you. Your public library will have books about books and suggestions for outstanding books for children. There are also book suggestions from Raising Readers in Story County (RRSC) in Appendix A and Appendix B of this Reading Corners Guide.

Consider Your Audience

- Who is your audience? Our Reading Corners targeted children ages 0 – 8 and their parents, but you may have mostly babies and toddlers or adolescents.
- Include books showing diverse children and families. Children will enjoy seeing kids like themselves in books. Equally important, books can help children welcome diversity.
- Will bilingual books be useful in your situation? What languages?
- What will the children be interested in: family, friends, pets, nature, animals, vehicles, and sports?
- Might children in the waiting room be anxious, stressed, feeling unwell, or bored? If so, funny books are probably a better choice than thoughtful mood piece books.

Choose Appealing Books

- Give priority to quality stories and art and eye-catching design.
- Look for books with opportunities for interaction between reader and listener. This might include animal sound effects, things to look for in the pictures, repeated lines that the child can say with the adult, flaps to lift.
- Provide variety: board books for babies and toddlers, stories about the everyday world, imaginative stories, silly fun, stories in rhyme, simple concept books, books for beginning readers, wordless books that invite the adult and child to tell the story in their own words, poetry, folktales, books of information with appealing illustrations to spark curiosity, books illustrated with photographs, books with things to look for in the pictures such as the "I Spy" series.
- Keep in mind that books offered in a public place need to be sturdy. Pop-up books are delightful but won't survive long.
- In a waiting room situation, choose short books and books that lend themselves to short reading sessions.

Things to Avoid

- Resist choosing books by the cover. An appealing cover doesn't guarantee a good story. Be aware that a book may include a message you didn't expect,

such as implying that girls can't do things that boys can do or reinforcing a stereotype.

- Avoid books that are commercials for movies, television, or products.

Plan Your Start-up Collection

A start-up collection might be about 40 books with this composition:

Type of Book	Number of Books
• Board books, including multicultural	10
• Picture story books (multicultural)	10
• Picture story books (funny)	10
• Picture story books (other)	5
• Nonfiction books	5

These are specific titles to consider if your Reading Corner target audience is children ages 0 – 8 and their parents.

Board Books

- Baby Faces (photos, multicultural)
- Run, Round Bear (concept)
- Bedtime (wordless)
- Toddler Two by Anastasia Suen (multicultural)
- Global Babies (photos, multicultural)
- Little Scholastic Colors (concept, textures)
- Daddy and Me (photos, multicultural)
- All About Me (photos, multicultural)
- The Itsy Bitsy Spider (song)
- I Like It When

Multicultural Picture Story Books

- I Love Saturdays y domingos by Alma Flor Ada
- Pio Peep! Traditional Spanish Nursery Rhymes selected by Alma Flor Ada
- Mrs. Chicken and the Hungry Crocodile (folktale)
- Feast for 10 by Cathryn Falwell
- Peek! A Thai Hide-and-Seek by Minfong Ho

- Dona Flor: A Tall Tale about a Giant Woman with a Great Big Heart by Pat Mora
- The Hello, Goodbye Window by Norton Juster
- Jonathan and His Mommy by Irene Smalls-Hector
- Young Pele: Soccer's First Star (nonfiction)
- Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World's Fastest Woman (nonfiction)

Picture Story Books

- Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault
- (rhyme, ABC)
- Baby Danced the Polka by Karen Beaumont (lift-the-flap, funny, rhyme)
- Snowball by Lois Ehlert (rhyme)
- How Are You Peeling? by Freymann (funny)
- Apple Pear Orange Bear by Emily Gravett (funny, word play)
- Frog and Toad Are Friends by Arnold Lobel (funny, beginning readers)
- One Duck Stuck by Phyllis Root (funny, rhyme)
- The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss (funny, rhyme)
- I Love Trucks by Philemon Sturges (rhyme)
- Flotsam by David Weisner (wordless)
- There's a Bird on Your Head by Mo Willems (funny, beginning readers)
- How Do Dinosaurs Get Well Soon? by Jane Yolen (funny, rhyme)
- Trashy Town by Andrea Zimmerman (rhyme, vehicles)

Nonfiction Books

- (Note: Multicultural includes 2 sports books.)
- I See a Kookaburra by Steve Jenkins
- Nic Bishop's Frogs (photos)
- I Spy Picture Riddles (activity)
- I Spy Mystery (activity)
- Can You See What I See? (activity)

Surefire Read-Aloud Favorites

These books would be good selections for volunteers who read to children in a Reading Corner.

- Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
- Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed by Eileen Christelow
- Five Little Monkeys Sitting in a Tree by Eileen Christelow
- Click Clack Moo: Cows That Type by Doreen Cronin, illustrated by Betsy Lewin
- Giggle Giggle Quack by Doreen Cronin, illustrated by Betsy Lewin
- Bark, George by Jules Feiffer
- Jump, Frog, Jump by Robert Kalan, illustrated by Byron Barton
- Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin, Jr., illustrated by Eric Carle
- If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Numeroff, illustrated by Felicia Bond
- One Duck Stuck by Phyllis Root, illustrated by Jane Chapman
- Duck on a Bike by David Shannon
- Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina
- The Gigantic Turnip by Aleksei Tolstoy
- Over in the Meadow by Olive A. Wadsworth, illustrated by Ezra Jack Keats
- Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus by Mo Willems
- I Went Walking by Sue Williams
- The Napping House by Audrey Wood
- Wheels on the Bus (many versions)
- Trashy Town by Andrea Zimmerman and David Clemesha

Board Books for Babies and Toddlers

- Barnyard Dance by Sandra Boynton. Workman, 1993.
- Moo, Baa, La La La by Sandra Boynton. Little Simon, 1982.
- Hand Rhymes by Marc Brown. Penguin, 1985.
- Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown, illustrated Clement Hurd. HarperFestival, 1991.
- Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell. Little Simon, 2007.
- From Head to Toe by Eric Carle. HarperFestival, 1999.

- The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle. Philomel, 1994.
- Mrs. Wishy-Washy by Joy Cowley, illustrated by Elizabeth Fuller. Penguin, 1999.
- Freight Train by Donald Crews. Greenwillow, 1996.
- Touch and Feel Wild Animals. DK Publishing, 1998.
- Ten in the Bed by Penny Dale. Candlewick, 2007.
- Tomie's Mother Goose Flies Again illustrated by Tomie DePaola. Putnam, 2005.
- Tickly Under There by Debi Gliori. Orchard, 2002.
- Global Babies by the Global Fund for Children. Charlesbridge, 2007.
- Where Is Baby's Belly Button: a Lift-the-Flap Book by Karen Katz. Little Simon, 2000.
- Where Is Baby's Mommy: a Lift-the-Flap Book by Karen Katz. Little Simon, 2001.
- Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes illustrated by Annie Kubler. Child's Play International, 2002.
- Look, Look! by Peter Linenthal. Dutton, 1998.
- Little Scholastic Colors. Scholastic Cartwheel, 2007.
- Little Scholastic Peek-a-Zoo. Scholastic Cartwheel, 2007.
- Brown Bear, Brown Bear by Bill Martin, Jr., illustrated by Eric Carle. Holt, 1996.
- Baby Food by Margaret Miller. Little Simon, 2000.
- I Love Colors by Margaret Miller. Little Simon, 1999.
- Peekaboo Baby by Margaret Miller. Little Simon, 2001.
- I Kissed the Baby by Mary Murphy. Candlewick, 2004.
- I Like It When by Mary Murphy. Candlewick, 2005.
- All Fall Down by Helen Oxenbury. Little Simon, 1999.
- Clap Hands by Helen Oxenbury. Little Simon, 1999.
- Say Goodnight by Helen Oxenbury. Little Simon, 1999.
- Tickle Tickle by Helen Oxenbury. Little Simon, 1999.
- Hector Protector illustrated by Tracey Campbell Pearson. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004.
- Little Bo Peep illustrated by Tracey Campbell Pearson. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004.
- The Pudgy Where Is Your Nose? Book by Laura Rader (Pudgy Board Books) Grosset & Dunlap, 1989.

- Five Little Ducks by Raffi, illustrated by Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey. Crown, 1999.
- Wheels on the Bus by Raffi, illustrated by Sylvie Wickstrom. Crown, 1998.
- Little Scholastic Peek-a-Zoo. Scholastic Cartwheel, 2007.
- Little Scholastic Colors by Justine Smith. Scholastic Cartwheel, 2007.
- Toddler Two by Anastasia Suen, illustrated by Winnie Cheon. Lee & Low, 2002.
- The Itsy Bitsy Spider illustrated by Rosemary Wells. Scholastic, 1998.
- I Went Walking by Sue Williams, illustrated by Julie Vivas. Harcourt Red Wagon, 1996.
- Noisy Barn! by Harriet Ziefert, illustrated by Simms Taback. Blue Apple Books, 2003.
- Where Is My Baby? by Harriet Ziefert, illustrated by Simms Taback. Blue Apple Books, 2002.
- Who Said Moo? by Harriet Ziefert, illustrated by Simms Taback. Blue Apple Books, 2002.

Picture Books for Reading Corners

- Each Peach Pear Plum by Allan Ahlberg, illustrated by Janet Ahlberg. Viking, 1982. ages 3–6
- Bubba and Beau, Best Friends by Kathi Appelt, illustrated by Arthur Howard. Harcourt, 2002. ages 4–8
- Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by John Archambault and Bill Martin, Jr., illustrated by Lois Ehlert. Simon & Schuster, 1989. ages 4–7
- Baby Danced the Polka by Karen Beaumont, illustrated by Jennifer Plecas. Dial, 2004. ages 2-6
- The Big Red Barn by Margaret Wise Brown, illustrated by Felicia Bond. HarperCollins, 1989. ages 2-6
- Snowmen at Night by Caralyn Buehner, illustrated by Mark Buehner. Dial, 2002. ages 3-7
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle. Philomel, 1981. ages 3–6
- Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed by Eileen Christelow. Clarion ages 3-6
- Five Little Monkeys Sitting in a Tree by Eileen Christelow. Clarion, 1991. ages 3–6

- Click Clack Moo: Cows that Type by Doreen Cronin, illustrated by Betsy Lewin. Simon & Schuster, 2000. ages 4-7
- Giggle Giggle Quack by Doreen Cronin, illustrated by Betsy Lewin. Simon & Schuster, 2002. ages 4-7
- Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert . Harcourt, 2005. ages 4-8
- Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf by Lois Ehlert . Harcourt, 1991. ages 3-6
- Snowballs by Lois Ehlert. Harcourt, 1995. ages 4-8
- Bark, George by Jules Feiffer. Laura Geringer, 1999. ages 3-7
- The Everything Book by Denise Fleming. Holt, 2000. ages 2-6
- Fast Food by Saxton Freymann and Joost Elfers. Scholastic, 2006. ages 3-8
- Food for Thought by Saxton Freymann and Joost Elfers. Scholastic, 2005. ages 3-6
- How Are You Peeling? Foods with Moods by Freymann and Joost Elfers. Scholastic, 1999. ages 4-8
- The Gingerbread Boy by Paul Galdone. Clarion, 1979. ages 4-8
- Henny Penny by Paul Galdone. Clarion, 1979. ages 4-8
- The Little Red Hen by Paul Galdone. Clarion, 1979. ages 4-8
- The Three Bears by Paul Galdone. Clarion, 1979. ages 3-8
- The Three Billy Goats Gruff by Paul Galdone. Clarion, 1979. ages 4-8
- Orange Pear Apple Bear by Emily Gravett. Simon & Schuster, 2007. ages 3-7
- Lily's Purple Plastic Purse by Kevin Henkes. Greenwillow, 1996. ages 5-8
- Don't You Feel Well, Sam? by Amy Hest, illustrated by Anita Jeram. Candlewick, 2002. ages 2-6
- Does a Cow Say Boo? by Judy Hindley, illustrated by Brita Granstrom. Candlewick, 2002. ages 2-6
- Blue Sea by Robert Kalan, illustrated by Donald Crews. Greenwillow, 1979. ages 2-6
- Jump, Frog, Jump by Robert Kalan, illustrated by Byron Barton. Greenwillow, 1995. ages 3-6
- The Red Book by Barbara Lehman . Houghton Mifflin, 2004. ages 6-10
- Frog and Toad Are Friends by Arnold Lobel. HarperCollins, 1970. ages 5-8
- Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin, Jr., illustrated by Eric Carle. Holt, 1992. ages 3-7
- If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Numeroff, illustrated by Felicia Bond. Laura Geringer, 1985. ages 3-7

- The Baby Goes Beep by Rebecca O'Connell, illustrated by Ken Wilson-Max. Roaring Brook, 2003. ages 2–5
- Wheels on the Bus by Raffi, illustrated by Sylvie Wickstrom. Crown, 1988. ages 2-7
- Good Night Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann. Putnam, 1996. ages 3-6
- Officer Buckle and Gloria by Peggy Rathmann. Putnam, 1995. ages 4-8
- One Duck Stuck by Phyllis Root, illustrated by Jane Chapman. Candlewick, 1998. ages 2-6
- Henry and Mudge: The First Book by Cynthia Rylant, illustrated by Sucie Stevenson. Atheneum, 1996. (Series) ages 5-7
- The True Story of the Three Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka, illustrated by Lane Smith. Viking, 1989. ages 5-8
- Dog and Bear: Two Friends, Three Stories by Laura Vaccaro Seeger. Roaring Brook, 2007. ages 4-8
- First the Egg by Laura Vaccaro Seeger. Roaring Brook Press, 2007. ages 2–6
- The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss. Random House, 1957. ages 4-8
- Duck on a Bike by David Shannon. Blue Sky Press, 2002. ages 4–8
- Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina. HarperCollins, 1947. ages 4–7
- Dinosaur Roar by Paul and Henrietta Stickland. Dutton, 1994. ages 4–6
- I Love Trains by Philemon Sturges, illustrated by Shari Halpern. HarperCollins, 2001. ages 3–6
- I Love Trucks by Philemon Sturges, illustrated by Shari Halpern. HarperCollins, 1999. ages 3–6
- Little Quack's Hide and Seek by Lauren Thompson, illustrated by Derek Anderson. Simon & Schuster, 2004. ages 3-6
- The Gigantic Turnip by Aleksei Tolstoy, illustrated by Niamh Sharkey. Barefoot Books, 1998. ages 4-8
- Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst, illustrated by Ray Cruz. Atheneum, 1972. ages 5-8
- Over in the Meadow by Olive A. Wadsworth, illustrated by Ezra Jack Keats. Viking, 1999. ages 3–6
- Flotsam by David Weisner. Clarion, 2006. ages 4–9
- Bunny Cakes by Rosemary Wells. Viking, 1999. ages 4–6
- Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus by Mo Willems. Hyperion, 2003. ages 4-9
- There's a Bird on Your Head by Mo Willems Hyperion, 2007. ages 4–8

- I Went Walking by Sue Williams, illustrated by Julie Vivas. Harcourt, 1990. ages 3–6
- A Chair for My Mother by Vera B. Williams. Greenwillow, 1982. ages 4–8
- Bear Feels Sick by Karma Wilson, illustrated by Jane Chapman. McElderry, 2007. ages 3–8
- Bear Snores On by Karma Wilson, illustrated by Jane Chapman. McElderry, 2002. ages 3–8
- The Napping House by Audrey Wood, illustrated by Don Wood. Harcourt, 1984. ages 3–8
- How Do Dinosaurs Get Well Soon? by Jane Yolen, illustrated by Mark Teague. Blue Sky Press, 2003. ages 4–7
- Seven Blind Mice by Ed Young. Putnam, 1992. ages 4+
- Trashy Town by Andrea Zimmerman and David Clemesha, illustrated by Dan Yaccarino. HarperCollins, 1999. ages 4–8

Multicultural Books for Children Ages 0 - 8

Board Books

- Baby Faces series by Roberta Grobel Intrater. Scholastic, 1997. ages 0–3
- Titles include Eat, Hugs & Kisses, Peek-A-Boo, Sleep, Smile, Splash
- All Fall Down by Helen Oxenbury. Little Simon, 1999. ages 0–3
- Clap Hands by Helen Oxenbury. Little Simon, 1999. ages 0–3
- Say Goodnight by Helen Oxenbury. Little Simon, 1999. ages 0–3
- Tickle Tickle by Helen Oxenbury. Little Simon, 1999. ages 0–3
- Global Babies by the Global Fund for Children. Charlesbridge, 07. ages 0–2
- Toddler Two by Anastasia Suen, illustrated by Winnie Cheon. Lee & Low, 2000.
- ages 0–3

Inclusive Books

- Everybody Cooks Rice by Norah Dooley. Carolrhoda, 1992. ages 4–8
- Everywhere Babies by Susan Meyers, illustrated by Marla Frazee. Harcourt, 2001. ages 1–5
- Fathers, Mothers, Sisters, Brothers: A Collection of Family Poems by Mary Ann Hoberman, illustrated by Marilyn Hafner. Little, Brown, 1991. ages 3–8
- Yo, Jo! by Rachel Isadora. Harcourt, 2007. ages 3–7

- Everywhere Babies by Susan Meyers, illustrated by Marla Frazee. Harcourt, 2001. ages 2–6
- Chicken Sunday by Patricia Polacco, Philomel, 1992. ages 5-9
- Yo! Yes? by Chris Raschka. Orchard, 1993. ages 5–8
- A Glorious Day by Amy Schwartz. Atheneum, 2005. ages 2-5
- More More More, Said the Baby by Vera B. Williams. Greenwillow, 1990. ages 4-8

Latino Books

- I Love Saturdays y domingos by Alma Flor Ada. Atheneum, 2002. ages 4-8
- Commended by Americas Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature
- Mama Goose: A Latino Nursery Treasury / Un tesoro de rimas infantiles by Alma Flor Ada and F. Isabel Campoy, illustrated by Maribel Suarez. Hyperion, 2004. ages 0-5
- Pio Peep! Traditional Spanish Nursery Rhymes selected by Alma Flor Ada and F. Isabel Campoy; English adaptations by Alice Schertle; illustrated by Vivi Escriva. Harper Collins, 2003. ages 1-6
- Iguanas in the Snow and Other Winter Poems/Iguanas en la nieve y otros poemas de invierno by Francisco X. Alarcon, illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez. Children's Book Press, 2001. ages 6–12
- Also From the Bellybutton of the Moon and Other Summer Poems, Laughing Tomatoes And Other Spring Poems, Angels Ride Bikes and Other Fall Poems
- Sparky's Bark/El ladrido de Sparky by Mimi Chapra, illustrated by Vivi Escriva. Harper, 06. ages 4–7
- Young Pele: Soccer's First Star by Lesa Cline-Ransome, illustrated by James Ransome. Schwartz & Wade, 2007. ages 5-8
- Arrorró, Mi Niño: Latino Lullabies and Gentle Games selected and illustrated by Lulu Delacre. Lee & Low Books, 2004. ages 4–8
- Pura Belpre Illustrator Honor Book
- Abuela by Arthur Dorros, illustrated by Elisa Kleven. Penguin, 1991. ages 4-8
- Isla by Arthur Dorros, illustrated by Elisa Kleven. Dutton, 1995. ages 4-8
- Bebé Goes Shopping by Susan Middleton Elya, illus Steven Salerno. Harcourt, 2006. ages 2-5
- In My Family/en mi familia by Carmen Lomas Garza. Children's Book Press, 1997. ages 4-8

- The Bossy Gallito: A Traditional Cuban Folktale retold by Lucia M. Gonzalez, illustrated by Lulu Delacre. Scholastic, 1994. ages 4-8
- My Colors, My World/Mis colores, mi mundo by Maya Christina Gonzalez. Children's Book Press, 2007. ages 4-8
- Fiesta! by Ginger Foglesong Guy, illustrated by Rene King Moreno. Greenwillow, 1996. ages 3–7
- Siesta by Ginger Foglesong Guy, illustrated by Rene King Moreno. Greenwillow, 2005. ages 3-7
- A Box Full of Kittens by Sonia Manzano, illus Matt Phelan. Atheneum, 07. ages 3–7
- No Dogs Allowed by Sonia Manzano, illustrated by Jon J. Muth. Simon & Schuster, 2004. ages 4-7
- Dona Flora: a Tall Tale about a Giant Woman with a Great Big Heart by Pat Mora, illustrated by Raul Colon. Knopf, 2005. ages 4–8
- Pablo's Tree by Pat Mora, illustrated by Cecily Lang. Macmillan, 1994. ages 4-7
- Ten Little Fingers/Diez deditos and Other Play Rhymes and Action Songs from Latin America by Jose-Luis Orozco, illustrated by Elisa Kleven. ages 5–8
- My Very Own Room/Mi propio cuartito by Amada Irma Perez, illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez. Children's Book Press, 2000. ages 5–8
- Mice and Beans by Pam Munoz Ryan, illustrated by Joe Cepeda. Scholastic, 2001.
- ages 5-9
- The Old Man and His Door by Gary Soto, illustrated by Joe Cepeda. Putnam, 1996. ages 4–8
- Te Amo, Bebe, Little One by Lisa Wheeler, illustrated by Maribel Suarez. Little, Brown, 2004. ages 2-4
- Let's Eat! by Ana Zamorano, illustrated by Julie Vivas. Scholastic, 1996. ages 4-7

Asian Books

- Where Are You Going? To See My Friend : A Story of Friendship in Two Languages by Eric Carle and Kazuo Iwamura. Orchard, 2001. ages 3-8
- Bilingual in English and Japanese
- Henry's First-Moon Birthday by Lenore Look, illustrated by Yumi Heo. Atheneum, 2001. ages 4–8

- Uncle Peter's Amazing Chinese Wedding by Lenore Look, illustrated by Yumi Heo. Atheneum, 2006. ages 4-8
- Hush! A Thai Lullaby by Minfong Ho, illustrated by Holly Meade. Scholastic, 2000. ages 3–6 Caldecott Honor Book
- Peek! A Thai Hide-and-Seek by Minfong Ho, illustrated by Holly Meade. Candlewick, 2004. ages 3–6
- Yoshi's Feast by Kimiko Kajikawa, illustrated by Yumi Heo. Dorling Kindersley, 2000. ages 4-8
- Kite Flying by Grace Lin. Knopf, 2002. ages 3–6
- Dumpling Soup by Jama Kim Rattigan, illustrated by Lillian Hsu-Flanders. Little, Brown, 1993. ages 4–8
- One is a Drummer: A Book of Numbers by Roseanne Thong, illustrated by Grace Lin. Chronicle, 2004. ages 4–8
- Red Is a Dragon: A Book of Colors by Roseanne Thong, illustrated by Grace Lin. Chronicle, 2001. ages 4–8
- Round is a Mooncake: A Book of Shapes by Roseanne Thong, illustrated by Grace Lin. Chronicle, 2000. ages 4-8

African American Books

- Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain by Verna Aardema, illustrated by Beatriz Vidal. Penguin, 1981. ages 4–7
- Ten, Nine, Eight by Molly Bang. Greenwillow, 1983. ages 3-6
- Beautiful Blackbird by Ashley Bryan. Atheneum, 2003. ages 4–8
- Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award Winner
- Flower Garden by Eve Bunting, illustrated by Kathryn Hewitt. Harcourt, 1994.
- ages 3–6
- It Takes a Village by Jane Cowen-Fletcher. Scholastic, 1994. ages 6-8
- Rap a Tap Tap: Here's Bojangles—Think of That illustrated and written by Leo and Diane Dillon. Blue Sky Press/Scholastic, 2002. ages 4-8
- Feast for 10 by Cathryn Falwell. Clarion, 1993. ages 3-6
- Rosa by Nikki Giovanni, illustrated by Bryan Collier. Holt, 2005. ages 7-10
- The Chicken-Chasing Queen of Lamar County by Janice N. Harrington, illustrated by Shelley Jackson. Melanie Kroupa/Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007. ages 4–8

- The Hello, Goodbye Window by Norton Juster, illus by Chris Raschka. Michael Di Capua/Hyperion, 05. ages 4-8 Caldecott Medal Winner
- Lola at the Library by Anna McQuinn, illustrated by Rosalind Beardshaw. Charlesbridge, 2006. ages 2-5
- Mrs. Chicken and the Hungry Crocodile by Won-Ldy Paye and Margaret H. Lippert, illustrated by Julie Paschkis. Holt, 2003. ages 4-8
- Max Found Two Sticks by Brian Pinkney. Simon and Schuster, 1994. ages 4-8
- The Biggest Soap by Carole Lexa Schaefer, illustrated by Stacey Dressen-McQueen. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2004. ages 4-8 (South Pacific Island)
- Jonathan and His Mommy by Irene Smalls-Hector, illustrated by Michael Hays. Little, Brown, 1992. ages 3-6
- Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Kadir Nelson. Jump at the Sun/Hyperion Books for Children, 2006. ages 7-10 Caldecott Honor Book

Nonfiction Books for Reading Corners

- Bugs! Bugs! Bugs! by Bob Barner. Chronicle, 1999. ages 3-6
- Nic Bishop Frogs by Nic Bishop. Scholastic, 2008. ages 4-9
- Young Pele: Soccer's First Star by Lesa Cline-Ransome, illustrated by James Ransome. Schwartz and Wade, 2007. ages 4-8
- The Magic School Bus Inside a Hurricane by Joanna Cole, illustrated by Bruce Degen. Scholastic, 1996. ages 6-9
- Also other titles in the "Magic School Bus" series
- Chameleon, Chameleon by Joy Cowley, with photos by Nic Bishop. Scholastic, 2005. ages 5-9
- Red-Eyed Tree Frog by Joy Cowley, with photos by Nic Bishop. Scholastic, 1999. ages 4-8
- Teammates by Peter Golenbock, illustrated by Paul Bacon. Harcourt, 1990. ages 6-9
- Actual Size by Steve Jenkins. Houghton Mifflin, 2004. ages 4-8
- Prehistoric Actual Size by Steve Jenkins. Houghton Mifflin, 2005. ages 4-8
- Knock Knock by 14 children's book illustrators. Dial, 2007. ages 5-9
- Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road? illustrated by 14 children's book illustrators. Dial, 2006. ages 5-9

- Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez by Kathleen Krull, illustrated by Yuyi Morales. Harcourt, 2003. ages 6–10
- Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World's Fastest Woman by Kathleen Krull, illustrated by David Diaz. Harcourt Brace, 1996. ages 6–11
- Hoops with Swoopes by Susan Kuklin with Sheryl Swoopes. Jump at the Sun, 2001. ages 4-8
- Snowflake Bentley by Jacqueline Briggs Martin, illustrated by Mary Azarian. Houghton Mifflin, 1998. ages 4–8
- I Spy: A Book of Picture Riddles by Jean Marzollo and Walter Wick. Cartwheel, 2005. ages 4–10
- I Spy Fun House: A Book of Picture Riddles by Jean Marzollo and Walter Wick. Cartwheel, 1993. ages 4–10
- I Spy Gold Challenger: A Book of Picture Riddles by Jean Marzollo and Walter Wick. Cartwheel, 2005. ages 5–10
- I Spy Treasure Hunt: A Book of Picture Riddles by Jean Marzollo and Walter Wick. Cartwheel, 1999. ages 4 – 10
- I Spy Year Round Challenger: A Book of Picture Riddles by Jean Marzollo and Walter Wick. Cartwheel, 2001. ages 4–10
- Work by Ann Morris. "Around the World Series) Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1998. ages 4–8
- Also: On the Go, Bread Bread Bread, Tools, Families, Loving, Houses and Homes
- I See a Kookaburra by Robin Page, illustrated by Steve Jenkins. Houghton Mifflin, 2005. ages 4–9
- What Do You Do with a Tail Like This? by Robin Page, illustrated by Steve Jenkins. Houghton Mifflin, 2003. ages 4–9
- Aesop's Fables illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Sea Star, 2000. ages 5–12
- Can You See What I See? by Water Wick. Scholastic, 2002. ages 4–8
- Can You See What I See? Cool collections by Water Wick. Scholastic Cartwheel, 2004. ages 4–8
- Can You See What I See? Seymour and the Juice Box Boat by Water Wick. Scholastic Cartwheel, 2004. ages 4–8