



## Baby Talk: Encouraging Language Development with Infants and Toddlers Suggested Book List



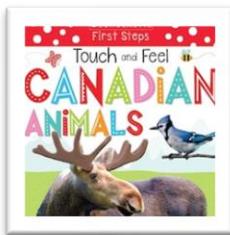
### HIGH CONTRAST BOOKS FOR INFANTS:

Bold black-and-white images stimulate the development of the optic nerves and encourage young babies' cognitive development without over-stimulating them. Research has shown that a baby's retina registers the strongest when shown black and white images. This, in turn, sends strong visual signals to the brain, leading to more brain growth and faster visual development.



### TOUCH & FEEL BOOKS

Touch-and-feel books are a great addition to your infant and toddler program for so many reasons. They help develop sensory awareness – babies first learn to explore the world around them through the sensation of touching. They also increase their vocabulary by allowing them to associate the texture they feel with the word it describes. Lastly it makes book reading fun!

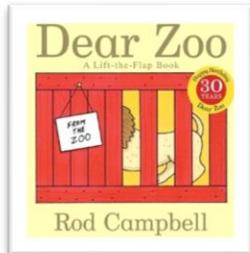


### [Canadian Animals](#)

This interactive animal book introduces babies and toddlers to Canada's amazing creatures! Simple words and innovative touch and feel elements are paired with bright, bold photographs and illustrations, filling each page with interest and colour. Perfect for little hands and inquisitive minds, this bright and chunky board book is educational, fun and an engaging introduction to our furry and feathered friends.

## INTERACTIVE & LIFT-THE-FLAP BOOKS

Babies and toddlers learn best through hands-on activities. Interactive books encourage them to explore, this active participation helps them to remember the story better and retain facts. Flaps help teach cause and effect – when they move a flap (cause) something changes (effect). Using books with flaps also help to develop a sense of object permanence, similar to playing peek-a-boo. Flap books also help with the development of fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination.

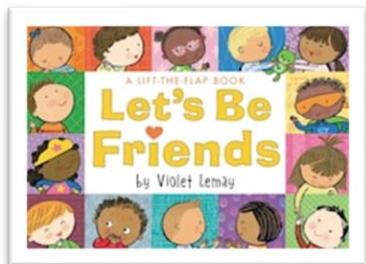
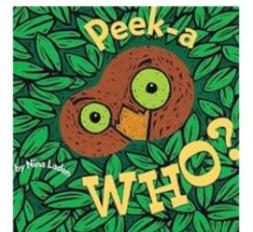


### Dear Zoo (by Rod Campbell)

Young readers love lifting the flaps to discover the animals the zoo has sent—a monkey, a lion, and even an elephant! But will they ever find the perfect pet? With bright, bold artwork, a catchy refrain, and a whole host of favorite animals, Dear Zoo is a must for every child's bookshelf.

### Peek-a-WHO? (by Nina Laden)

Peek-a-Who! takes the most loved baby and toddler game and puts it in book form! Colorful pictures and simple rhyming texts help children guess what's peeking through the die-cut windows in this fun board book. The anticipation of what's hiding on the next page and the bright, engaging illustrations will keep little ones guessing and giggling all the way to the surprise ending.



### Let's Be Friends (by Violet Lemay)

This lift-the-flap board book filled with warm and lively illustrations teaches toddlers all about friendship. We're different! We're the same! Can we be friends? Of course, we can! This sweet board book celebrates friendship and the importance of embracing our differences. It joyfully shows diverse children from all over the world and teaches a valuable lesson: we are all just people and we are all worthy of friendship.

### Indestructibles: Let's Go Outside! (by Ekaterina Trukhan)

Indestructibles is the trusted series for easing little ones into story time. Beloved by babies and their parents, Indestructibles are built for the way babies "read" and are:

- Rip Proof—made of ultra-durable tight-woven material
- Waterproof—can be chewed on, drooled on, and washed!

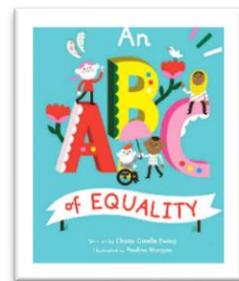


## CONCEPT & MULTILINGUAL BOOKS TO SUPPORT LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT:

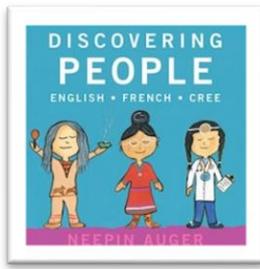
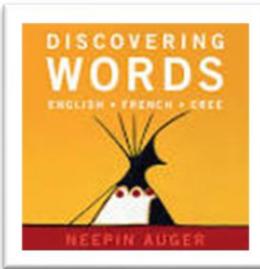
Bilingual and multilingual books are a great addition to any program. They help build children's vocabulary, they help them feel included as they provide them with much-needed representations of their home language, and they also help young children learn about and become more accepting of other cultures and people.

### An ABC of Equality (by Chana Ginelle Ewing)

A is for Ability, B is for Belief, C is for Class. *An ABC of Equality* introduces complicated concepts surrounding social justice to the youngest of children. All people have the right to be treated fairly, no matter who they are, what they look like, or where they come from. From A to Z, simple explanations accompanied by engaging artwork teach children about the world we live in and how to navigate our way through it.



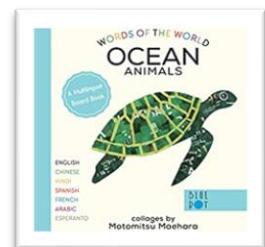
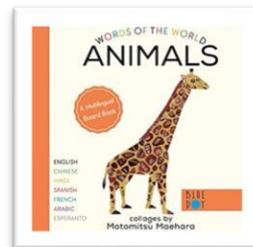
### Discovering WORDS & Discovering People : English~French~Cree (by Neepin Auger)



This book contains original, brightly coloured images and early education level concepts familiar to everyone. Playful and bold, these dynamic stories will educate and entertain toddlers, parents, and teachers alike. In addition to the English words presented, the French and Cree equivalents are also given, making these some of the most dynamic and useful board books.

### Animals & Ocean Animals (by Motomitsu Maehara)

These beautiful board books pair gorgeous collages of many different types of animals, with their names across the six most popular languages worldwide: English, Spanish, French, Hindi, Chinese (Mandarin), and Arabic, as well as the language of universal friendship, Esperanto.



### Maud Lewis 1-2-3 (by Shanda LaRamee-Jones, Carol McDougall)

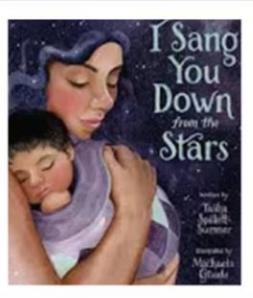


This is a wonderful first counting book and introduction to the joy-filled art of Nova Scotia's most famous folk painter, Maud Lewis. Babies and toddlers will have fun searching the vibrant images to count the kittens, oxen, birds, and flowers on each page.

\*Try making your own bilingual or multilingual book! Find a book that has simple text then, using a clear mailing label, print out the text in another language and place the sticker inside the book.

## DIVERSE BOOKS

Diversity is always age appropriate. It's never too early to talk about diversity topics. Even babies and toddlers notice the similarities and differences between people. To help kids embrace diversity, we need to give them access to a books in which they see themselves and their families reflected and introduce them to new thoughts and ideas while cultivating compassion, awareness and understanding through exposure to a broader world view. It is important to ensure that the bookshelves of the children we care for reflect and honour the diversity of ability, race, creed and gender found in our world.

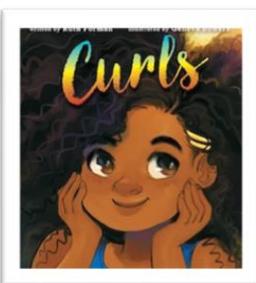


### **I Sang You Down from the Stars (by Tasha Spillett-Sumner)**

Drawing from Indigenous creation stories and traditional teachings and illustrated in dazzling watercolors, *I Sang You Down from the Stars* is a tribute to the bond between mother and child.

### **Our Skin (by Megan Madison, Jessica Ralli & Isabel Roxas)**

Developed by experts in the fields of early childhood and activism against injustice, this topic-driven board book offers clear, concrete language and beautiful imagery that young children can grasp and adults can leverage for further discussion.

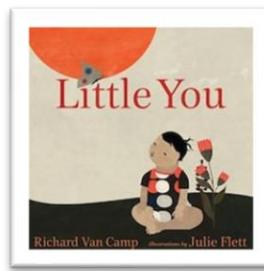


### **Curls (by Ruth Forman)**

A joyfully poetic board book that delivers an ode to African American girls and the beauty of their curls.

### **Little You (by Richard Van Camp)**

A tender board book for babies and toddlers that celebrates the potential of every child. With its delightful contemporary illustrations, *Little You* is perfect to be shared, read or sung to all the little people in your life.



### **Dim Sum for Everyone! (by Grace Lin)**



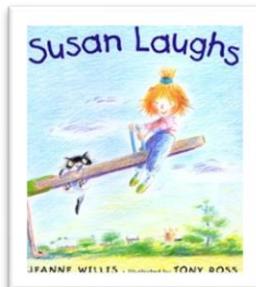
A Chinese American family sits down to enjoy a traditional dim sum meal. Dumplings, cakes, buns, and tarts are wheeled out in little dishes on trolleys, and each family member gets to choose a favorite treat! Lin's bold and gloriously patterned artwork is a feast for the eyes. Her story is simple and tailor-made for reading aloud to young children.

### Think Big, Little One (by Vashti Harrison)

Featuring eighteen women creators, ranging from writers to inventors, artists to scientists, this board book adaptation of Little Dreamers: Visionary Women Around the World introduces trailblazing women like Mary Blair, an American modernist painter, environmental activist Wangari Maathai, and architect Zaha Hadid. The irresistible full-color illustrations show the Dreamers as both accessible and aspirational so reader knows they, too, can grow up to do something amazing.



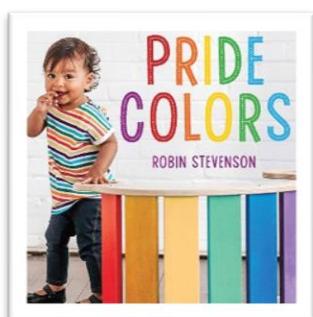
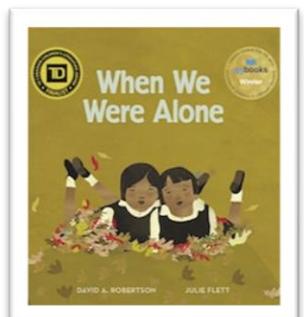
### Susan Laughs (by Jeanne Willis)



Told in rhyme, this story follows Susan through a series of familiar activities. She swims with her father, works hard in school, plays with her friends -- and even rides a horse. Lively, thoughtfully drawn illustrations reveal a portrait of a busy, happy little girl with whom younger readers will identify. Not until the end of the story is it revealed that Susan uses a wheelchair.

### When We Were Alone (by David A. Robertson)

When a young girl helps tend to her grandmother's garden, she begins to notice things that make her curious. Why does her grandmother have long, braided hair and beautifully coloured clothing? Why does she speak another language and spend so much time with her family? As she asks her grandmother about these things, she is told about life in a residential school a long time ago, where all of these things were taken away. When We Were Alone is a story about a difficult time in history, and, ultimately, one of empowerment and strength.



### Pride Colors (by Robin Stevenson)

Through gentle rhymes and colorful photographs of adorable children, Pride Colors is a celebration of the deep unconditional love of a parent or caregiver for a young child. The profound message of this delightful board book is you are free to be whoever you choose to be; you'll always be loved.

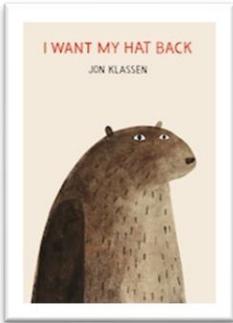
### Love Makes a Family (by Sophie Beer)

Love is baking a special cake. Love is lending a helping hand. Love is reading one more book. In this exuberant board book, many different families are shown in happy activity, from an early-morning wake-up to a kiss before bed. Whether a child has two moms, two dads, one parent, or one of each, this simple preschool read-aloud demonstrates that what's most important in each family's life is the love the family members share.



## MORE GREAT BOOKS FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS

The first—and best—tip for sharing books with young children is to have fun together! If children are engaged and enjoying themselves, they are learning. When children have positive interactions with books, they are developing good feelings about reading, which will motivate them to continue seeking out books and other literacy materials as they grow. Check out these books below if you're looking to add to your library:

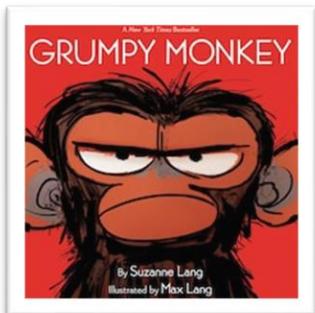
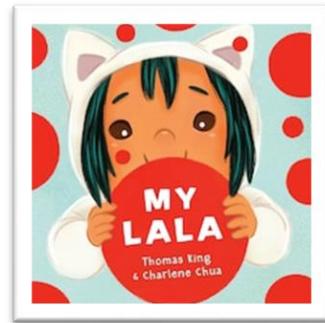


### **I Want My Hat Back (by Jon Klassen)**

A bear's hat is gone, and he wants it back. Patiently and politely, he asks the animals he comes across whether they have seen it. None of them have. Have you seen it? Available in board book.

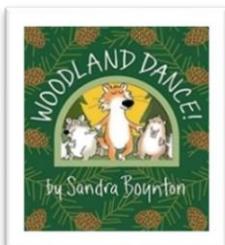
### **My Lala (by Thomas King)**

Lala's bear gets a dot, as does her blankie, boots, and even the markers she uses to make scrawls on her walls. When she finishes labeling everything in her room and goes to label her dad-daddy's socks, Lala realizes that she's out of dots! But when Lala discovers that she can simply create her own red dots, will anything be safe from Lala?



### **Grumpy Monkey (by Suzanne Lang)**

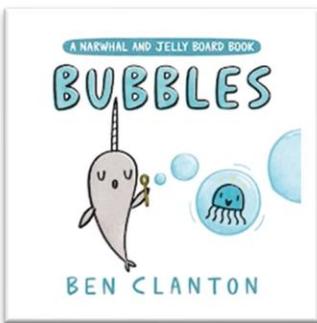
Jim the chimpanzee is in a terrible mood for no good reason. His friends can't understand it--how can he be in a bad mood when it's SUCH a beautiful day? They have lots of suggestions for how to make him feel better. But Jim can't take all the advice...and has a BIT of a meltdown. Could it be that he just needs a day to feel grumpy?



### **Woodland Dance (by Sandra Boynton)**

Woodland animals heed the call of the fox's bugle to join the woodland dance in a moonlit glade, dancing all night to the music of the Woodland Dance Trio. As the animals wander off to bed, the Trio plays one last piece to welcome the sun. A lovely, lyrical way to end, or start, the day.

## Bubbles (by Ben Clanton)

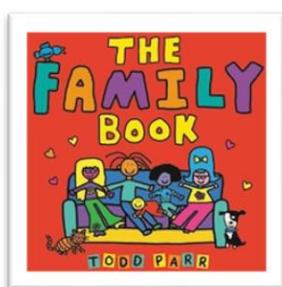
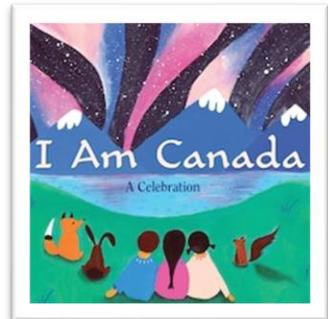


Dive into a brand-new Narwhal and Jelly story for the youngest readers! When Narwhal accidentally bursts Jelly's bubble with their tusk-tooth, Jelly is a little sad . . . until Narwhal shows him that there are lots of bubbles in the ocean! There are little-bitty bubbles and great big bubbles. There are bubbles up high and bubbles down low. There are bubbles that are pink and bubbles that stink. It's unbelieva-bubble!

## I Am Canada: A Celebration (by Heather Patterson)

What is being a Canadian kid all about?

Simple text describes the ample space available to our children in this country, and the freedom they have to grow and dream and share. With artwork from 13 of Canada's finest illustrators, each page is a celebration and a reminder of the infinite variety of our home and native land.

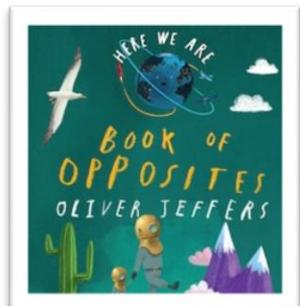


## The Family Book (by Todd Parr)

Some families have two moms or two dads. Some families have one parent instead of two. Some families live in a house by themselves. Some families share a house with other families. All families can help each other be strong!

## Book of Opposites (by Oliver Jeffers)

A spectacular concept board book from world-renowned artist Oliver Jeffers. Inspired by the exceptional, award-winning global picture-book phenomenon, *Here We Are*, comes this irresistible introduction to opposites to welcome babies and toddlers to our planet.

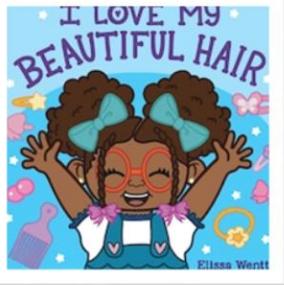


## Sharon, Lois And Bram's Skinnamarink (by Sharon Hampson, Lois Lillienstein, Bram Morrison)

What does "skinnamarink" mean? You may not find its definition in a dictionary, but the meaning is clear to the generations of children who sang along: friendship, happiness, sharing, community and, ultimately, love. Young and old, from little mice to a big elephant, people and animals gather into a spontaneous parade as they follow the sound of music.

## Ooko (by Esme Shapiro)

Ooko has everything a fox could want: a stick, a leaf and a rock. Well, almost everything . . . Ooko wants someone to play with too! The foxes in town always seem to be playing with their two-legged friends, the Debbies. Maybe if he tries to look like the other foxes, one of the Debbies will play with him too. But when Ooko finally finds his very own Debbie, things don't turn out quite as he had expected!

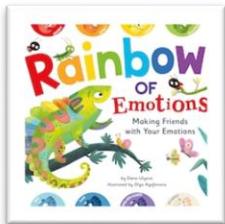
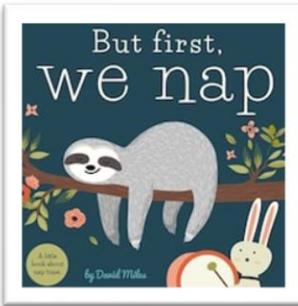


## I Love My Beautiful Hair (by Elissa Wentz)

Little EJ is so excited to join her mom and grand-mommy for her first-ever trip to the hair salon. She wants to find a special hair style. But with so many options, how can she choose? Should

## But First, We Nap: A Little Book About Nap Time (by David Miles)

Sloth wants to nap. Rabbit doesn't. Who will win in the end? For everyone who's struggled to get a child to she try afro puffs, with ribbons and bows? Or twisty spirals that tickle her nose? Luckily, Mommy is there to offer reassurance: "Your hair is curly, like clouds in the sky. It's beautiful no matter which style you try!"



## Rainbow of Emotions (by Elena Ulyeva)

Iggy the multicolored chameleon turns different colors depending on his emotions. While visiting the animals in the jungle, he turns different colors as he feels angry, ashamed, shy, sad, and more.

## Mommy's Love (by Anastasia Galkina)

This tender poem reinforces the message that no matter a child's strengths or weaknesses, whether they succeed or fail, Mommy's love never falters. With adorable art showcasing a variety of family scenarios that will be familiar to any parent, Mommy Loves You makes it clear that a mother's love is unconditional.

