

Brightly

SUMMER READING FUN PACK



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PRE-K

The Ultimate Summer Reading List for Preschoolers

by Devon Corneal

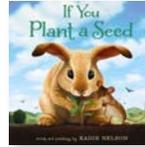
Although your littlest ones may not be reading chapter books yet, there's no reason not to fill their summer with stories. Throw one of these magical, colorful, and funny stories in your bag when you need a break from swimming, building sand-castles, or playing outside.



What This Story Needs Is a Pig in a Wig

by Emma J. Virjan

Every story needs a pig in a wig, or a horse, of course. Perfect for early readers, this simple story incorporates rhymes and repetition to capture your preschooler's imagination.



If You Plant a Seed

by Kadir Nelson

If you aren't in love with Kadir Nelson's extraordinary artwork, you will be after reading this simple tale that shows us all how a single act of kindness can transform our world.



Wait

by Antoinette Portis

Using only the words "wait" and "hurry," Antoinette Portis neatly captures the life of a preschooler on his way to school. Where he sees opportunities to meet neighborhood animals and dodge raindrops, his mother sees obstacles to their prompt arrival. Parents and children alike will recognize themselves in these pages.



Last Stop on Market Street

by Matt de la Pena, illustrated by Christian Robinson

CJ spends Sundays with his Grandmother, riding the bus across town to Market Street. Along the way, CJ also gets a lesson in being grateful for what he has and learning to see the beauty all around him, instead of wishing for what he lacks. It's a timely and lovely message that we all can learn.



Where's the Pair?

by Britta Teckentrup

Help your young reader learn about similar and different in this fantastic book of creatures big and small. Your child will delight in finding the matching cats and dragonflies in pages filled with colorful decoys.



Outstanding in the Rain

by Frank Via

This book lives up to its subtitle: *A Whole Story With Holes*. Your child will enjoy guessing what pictures lie ahead as they turn page after page of strategically placed cutouts that track a young boy's day at the boardwalk.



One Family

by George Shannon, illustrated by Blanca Gomez

A counting book and a glorious ode to families in all their complexity and beauty, this book will educate little readers about more than just numbers.



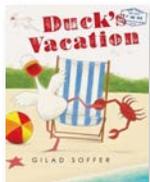
The Tortoise and the Hare

by Alison Ritchie, illustrated by Nahta Noj

Another gorgeous cutout book, this version of the classic racing tale will entertain kids as they discover peek-a-boo pictures on every page. You may already know how it ends, but the journey has never been sweeter.

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Duck's Vacation

by Gilad Soffer

In the tradition of *There's a Monster at the End of This Book and Press Here*, *Duck's Vacation* encourages children to interact with the characters in the story and insists that their actions change the story itself. This poor duck just wants to be left alone, but turning the pages is turning his dream vacation into a nightmare filled with bad weather, pinching crabs, and unexpected pirates. Whatever you do, don't turn the page!



Over the Hills and Far Away

by Elizabeth Hammill

This collection of nursery rhymes is illustrated by more than seventy artists, and will have you seeing your favorite childhood poems in a whole new light. In addition to gorgeous artwork, the collection contains rhymes from countries all over the world, which means you'll likely find one you've never read before.



Ice Cream Summer

by Peter Sis

When school lets out, the ice cream truck starts its annual rounds and one little boy can't get the delicious frozen treat out of his head. Full of colorful and inventive illustrations, fun facts and fanciful dreams, this is a perfect book for those long humid days of summer.



The Cow Tripped Over the Moon: A Nursery Rhyme Emergency

by Jeanne Willis, illustrated by Joel Stewart

Once you've mastered the original nursery rhymes, turn them on their heads and call for an ambulance! When Humpty falls and the cow trips over the moon, you're going to need medical attention ASAP.



The Big Princess

by Taro Miura

Once upon a time, in a faraway kingdom, lived a king and queen with no child of their own to love. One day, they find a teensy princess on a leaf in their garden and take her in as their own. But the princess is cursed and unless the king and queen can break the spell, their kingdom will be lost forever. With his usual flair and colorful style, Taro Miura has created a book both visually and narratively captivating.

10 Things You Can Do This Summer to Get Your Child Ready for Kindergarten

by Melissa Taylor

The summer is the perfect time to help prepare your child for the transition to kindergarten. Here are some things you can do at home to get them ready.

1. Be Chatty

Parents who regularly interact with their children build their children's word bank. Whether at the grocery store, the park, or on a walk, those back-and-forth conversations are so important. Keep them up. The more words your child knows, the better she'll do academically.

2. Read Aloud

Reading to your child teaches her many things that we adults take for granted. Kids learn basics such as how to hold a book, left to right reading, wondering what will happen next, and discovering new words. Read aloud every day. It's the easiest way to get your child ready for school.

3. Practice Independent Tasks

When your child is at school without you, he needs to be able to do the following things independently:

- going to the bathroom (unbuttoning and fastening pants)
- dressing (changing clothes, zipping coats, and fastening shoes)
- eating lunch (opening juice boxes)
- separating from parents
- knowing his full name and phone number
- following two-step directions

4. Do Dress Rehearsals

Prepare your child for what to expect in kindergarten. Have play dates with classmates. Tour the school. Talk about what to expect during a school day. Play "kindergarten" at home. Think of a fun way to say good-bye and hello, maybe a secret handshake to do when you drop off and pick up. Above all, be enthusiastic about the upcoming school year.

5. Play and Learn

Children learn through play. When your child plays, you can weave in learning by introducing new words and concepts, and helping her stretch her thinking. Here are some examples of what you could say if your child is playing with cars.

- *"Did you know that a someone who fixes cars is called a mechanic? Want to pretend to be mechanics?"*
- *"Let's see if we can draw a car."*
- *"How many cars do you have?"*
- *"What other words rhyme with car? How about star?"*
- *"What letter sound does car start with?"*

6. Practice Facts and Figures

Can your child count to ten? How about recognize any numbers when written? Work on these skills as well as knowing basic shapes, colors, and sorting for numeracy readiness. For literacy readiness, be sure your child knows the alphabet, how to write her own name, how to rhyme, and at least some of the letter sounds.

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7. Take Field Trips

Studies show that children with a wealth of background knowledge have better vocabularies and more advanced reading skills. So believe it or not, even trips to the zoo, shopping at the farmers market, or adventures at the beach count as kindergarten prep. They're building your child's background knowledge!

8. Focus On Big and Small Movements

Fine motor skills and gross motor skills take intention and repetition. Practice cutting and drawing lines — both squiggly and straight — to build those fine motor skills. For gross motor skills, help your child hop, jump, run, kick a ball, and catch a ball. Watch his balance and coordination improve as you practice these skills.

9. Emphasize Socialization

Keep up those play dates with other kids. It's important your child know how to take turns, share, listen, and cooperate with others. If he lacks in any area, give him opportunities to practice. Continue to help your child learn about feelings and what is acceptable behavior.

10. Don't Forget About Sleep

About a month before kindergarten starts, sync bedtime and wake-up times to the upcoming school schedule. Five-year olds need about 11-12 hours of sleep per day to be ready to learn.

Planes, Trains, and Automobiles: Family Travel Essentials

by Denise Schipani

Planning something epic for summer travel? Whether you'll be spending hours on a plane or hours (or days) in your car, you'll need some strategies, starting with a good sense of humor and spirit of adventure. Here's our thoroughly modern list of Road Trip Survival Essentials. And while books are an obvious first, they're not you or your kids' only needs:

Books: This one is obvious, but it's worth planning. Is there a series your kids have been dying to dig into? Or one your whole family might like — if only you had the time? Long trips lend themselves to, say, the whole **Harry Potter series in audiobook form**. Or, the treat for your kids of the next ten **Magic Tree House books**. Slip in surprises, so that if your kid is bored with the choices she made, you can present a new book or audiobook.

Maps: Yes, you're using GPS; who wouldn't? But there's something retro-fun about breaking out a big atlas and showing the kids where you're going and marking the route you'll likely take. You might consider making photocopies of pages and putting them on a clipboard so the kids can follow along and draw on the maps.

Checklists: We often drive from New York to Washington, D.C., and we never leave home without a pre-printed list of the 50 states and a few Canadian provinces, so we can check off license plates as we see them. And yes, even in that relatively short route, we have gotten as many as 35 states and two or three provinces checked off. Still looking for Alaska...

Picnic supplies: You may be planning to snack or consume packed lunches in the car, or stop at roadside diners or highway rest stops. But be prepared for possible picnics, too; just toss a blanket in the back of the car. If you have room, pack camp chairs and/or sports equipment.

Recording device: On a long road trip my family took in the late 1970s, my dad got us the *coolest item ever*: a tape player that we could plug into the cigarette lighter. Not only could we listen to tapes (mostly kiddie stuff, thanks to the addition of my toddler brother), we could *record*. Your kids, depending on their ages and your stomach for handing over your smartphone, can record a travelogue to listen back to later — much better than our approximately 400 listens of Sesame Street's Greatest Hits.

Bag of tricks: My friend Claudia took her three daughters back to her native Argentina many times over the course of their childhoods — a 14-hour plane ride. She survived with this tried and true trick: three backpacks stocked with dollar-store ephemera they could pull out and delight themselves with periodically.

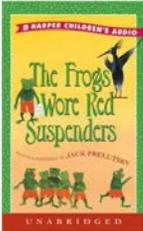
Survival kit: You probably thought of things like a first-aid kit and water bottles. But also consider stashing a bag with sweatshirts and/or blankets, chargers for everything and/or batteries, snacks that don't require either refrigeration or wet-naps to consume (like trail mix). But bring wet-naps, too. Why not!

Whatever you do this summer, happy travels!

6 Engaging Audiobooks for Preschoolers

by Jennifer Ridgway

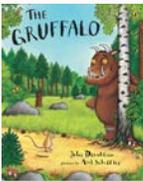
Audiobooks can be a wonderful learning tool for preschoolers, helping kids expand their imagination and strengthen their listening, pronunciation, and comprehension skills. They're also excellent travel companions. Here are six great ones.



The Frogs Wore Red Suspenders

by Jack Prelutsky, narrated by Jack Prelutsky

This is a great example of how an audiobook can turn a printed book into something altogether different. Prelutsky is well known in children's publishing for his collections of poems, but this audiobook proves he also has skills as a musician. He's taken his poems – rich with geography and vocabulary – and turned them into fun songs the whole family will enjoy.



The Gruffalo

by Julia Donaldson, narrated by Hal Hollings

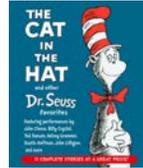
The Gruffalo won an award for being a great read-aloud book, so it's no surprise it works well as an audiobook. Hollings uses different voices to bring each of the animals to life. The story of a young mouse that invents a frightening creature named the Gruffalo to keep the other animals from eating him will entertain listeners young and old.



Where the Wild Things Are

by Maurice Sendak, narrated by Peter Schickele

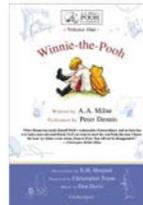
Sendak's modern classic about a young boy sent to his room without dinner who then sails away to tame the beasts is great as an audiobook. Schickele's wonderfully gravelly voice and perfect monster noises bring the beasts to life. There is also a catchy tune in the background, which helps set the mood for the listening experience.



The Cat in the Hat and Other Dr. Seuss Favorites

by Dr. Seuss, narrated by Kelsey Grammer, John Cleese, John Lithgow, Billy Crystal, and more

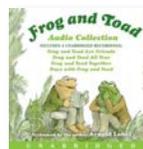
Dr. Seuss is such a fun read-aloud experience, and the actors brought in to narrate these stories make the audiobook supremely entertaining. You can listen to it all at once (during a long car trip, perhaps) or break it up by individual story. The audiobook is formatted into chapters, so you can easily navigate to the particular story your child wants to hear.



Winnie-the-Pooh

by A.A. Milne, narrated by Peter Dennis

Peter Dennis's narrations are the only narrations authorized by Christopher Robin Milne, A.A. Milne's son. The production is a magical experience, bringing the Enchanted Place to life for listeners. Soothing music introduces the book and provides a bridge between each of the ten stories, and subtle nature sounds help to immerse the listener in the tales. Dennis deftly changes voice and mood to perform all the various characters.



Frog and Toad Audio Collection

by Arnold Lobel, narrated by Arnold Lobel

Frog and Toad have been favorites of many generations of children, helping instill the true magic of friendship along the way. This audio collection includes all four Frog and Toad books. Lobel himself narrates, and he proves to be an able narrator, infusing his characters with great charm and humor.

Delightfully Distracted: Great Learning Games for Car Trips

by Melissa Taylor

Whether on short trips to the store or long road trips, car games help make travel time more entertaining and distract your kids from the monotony of the drive. Even better is if those games help your kids learn. See what you think about these car games for the preschool set.

1. Find the Color

One person picks a color to find. The first person to find that color on something outside of the car wins and picks the next color.

2. Alphabet Name Game

Find the letters in your name using signs and license plates. All players can help search.

3. Rhyme Time

Say a word on a sign or something that you see. Try to think of words that rhyme with it. For example: “car” — rhymes with “jar,” “star,” “bar,” and so on.

4. Alliteration Sentences

Someone says a letter or sound. Take turns making up silly sentences that (mostly) start with that letter.

5. I Spy Bottles

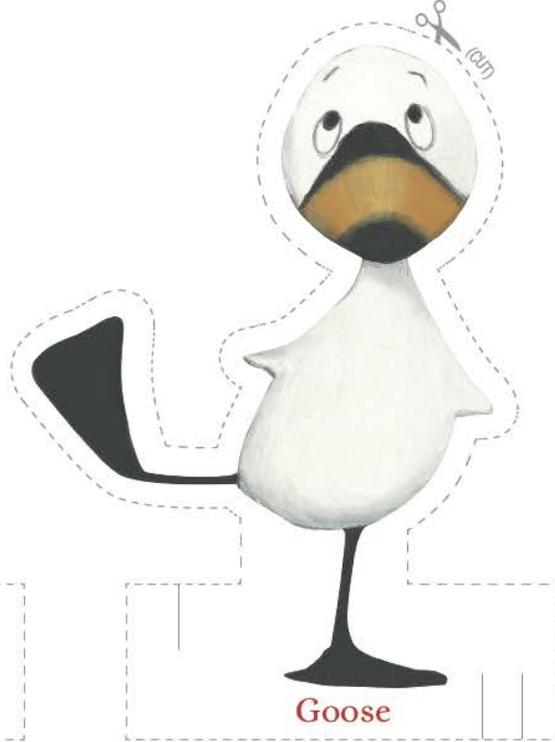
Buy or make your own “Find It” or “**I Spy**” bottle. These contain small items that are mixed in with a lot of rice and glued shut. Kids shake the bottle to find the items.

Duck & Goose Finger Puppets

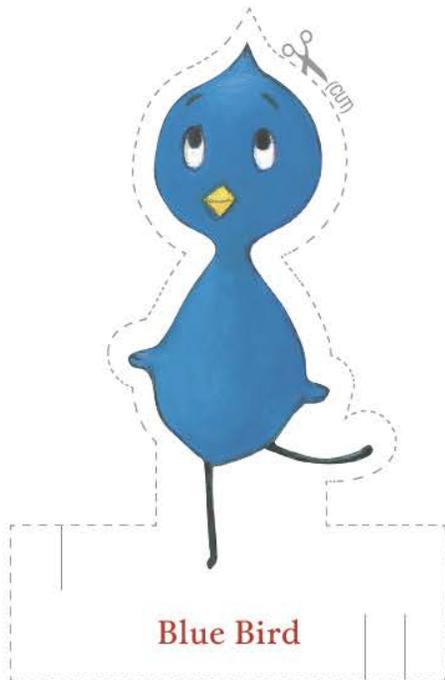
With the help of an adult cut out these characters, wrap them around your fingers and lock in the tabs.



Duck



Goose



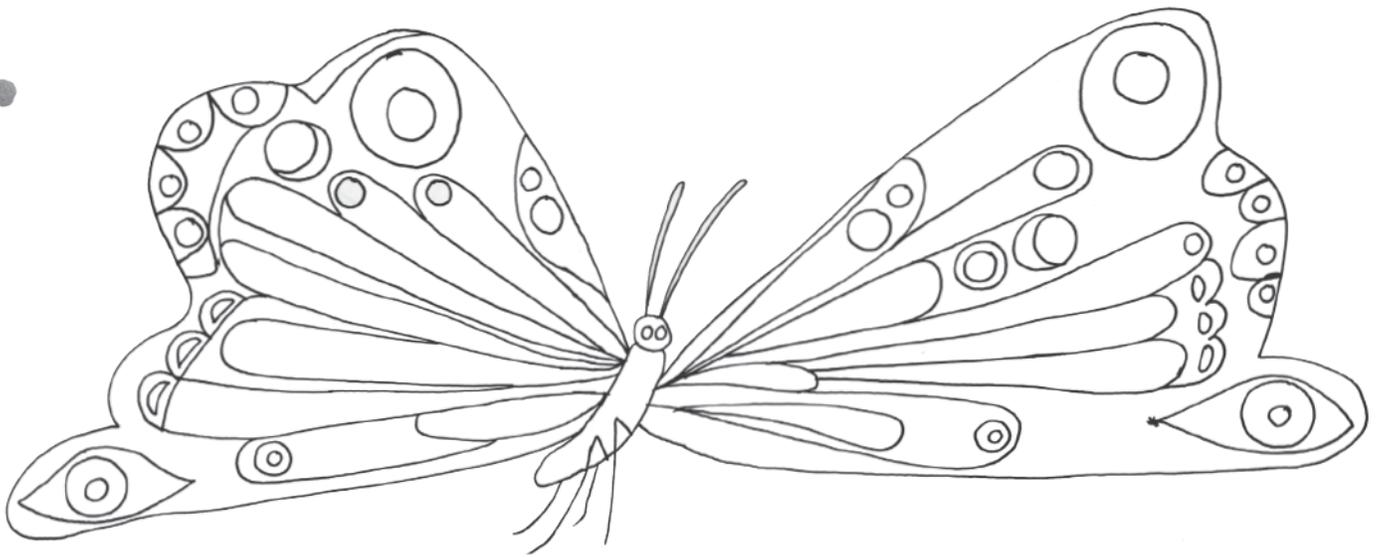
Blue Bird



Thistle

Illustrations © Tad Hills

Very Beautiful Butterfly
The Very Hungry Caterpillar transformed
into a beautiful butterfly!
Use your imagination to color this butterfly.



Caterina and the Best Beach Day Coloring Page



Caterina and the Best Beach Day Dial Books for Young Readers © 2015 erin eitter kono



Nemours
ReadingBrightStart! Happy Readers, Healthy Kids Tip Sheet

For more tips and activities to build Happy Readers, Healthy Kids visit ReadingBrightStart.org.

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Stories on the Go



This simple take-along activity can help you become a storyteller no matter where you are. Just pull out a photo card and describe what you see. You might even make up a funny story or use two photo cards to weave a tall tale! [Prep: None](#) | [Activity Time: 5-6 Minutes](#)

Supplies

- handmade photo card library:
 - index cards
 - glue or tape
 - old magazines or store circulars
- sealable sandwich bag

Instructions

Step 1: Create your own photo cards with a stack of blank index cards and photos or pictures from old magazines. Cut out photos of interesting people, places and things such as pets, fruits and vegetables, or faces with emotions. Glue or tape a photo onto each index card.

Step 2: Put your cards into a sealed sandwich bag and put them in your purse, diaper bag or car.

Step 3: When you are waiting in line, at a doctor's appointment, or sitting in traffic, pull out a photo card and ask your child to describe the item. For example, you might say, "What do you see in this picture?"

Step 4: Give information about what the item is, how it's used and where you'd find it, and tell a story about your personal connection with the item.

Example:

"This is a picture of a red wagon. It has four black wheels and a long handle. One little friend can sit in the wagon, and another friend or grown-up has to pull the handle and take him for a ride. There are wagons at the park. One day, I saw the kids having wagon races at the park. When you get a little bit older, you'll be able to have wagon races with your friends too!"

Step 4: Ask your toddler some questions about the photo, and respond to his answers.

Example:

You: "Do you think you would like to ride in a red wagon?"

Toddler: "Yes."

You: "Would you like to go fast or slow in the wagon?"





Nemours
Reading Bright Start! **Happy Readers, Healthy Kids Tip Sheet**

For more tips and activities to build Happy Readers, Healthy Kids visit ReadingBrightStart.org.

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Bowl of Nonsense



Many 4-year-olds have developed a basic understanding of rhyming words and can tell you whether two words rhyme, such as hat and bat. If your preschooler delights in all things silly and fun, he will enjoy this game. As you play together, you will be helping your child pay attention to the ending sounds in words, and helping him discover what it means when we say that two words *rhyme*.

Supplies

- a bowl or basket
- a collection of four to six household items

Instructions

Step 1: Have your child help you find four to five items from around the house to put into a bowl. Say the name of each item as you add it to the bowl. (Example items: fork, cup, marker, candle, keys)

Step 2: Make up a nonsense rhyming word to match an object from the bowl. For example, you might say yandle to rhyme with candle.

Step 3: Tell your child that you are going to say the name of something in the bowl in a silly way and you want him to guess the correct object. You might say: “Listen carefully and try to guess which object I am talking about. Find the object that rhymes with yandle.”

Step 4: Acknowledge your child for finding the object that rhymes with the silly word as you repeat the words together. “Yes! Candle sounds like yandle! These words rhyme. They sound the same at the end. Say them with me candle...yandle; candle...yandle; candle...yandle.”

Step 5: Repeat with all remaining items in the bowl. At this age, it is important to give your child lots of fun and upbeat experiences with rhyming. After many successful exposures, your child will be able to find the correct answer on her own. It’s about exposure, not mastery. After many exposures, your child will start to “get it.”