

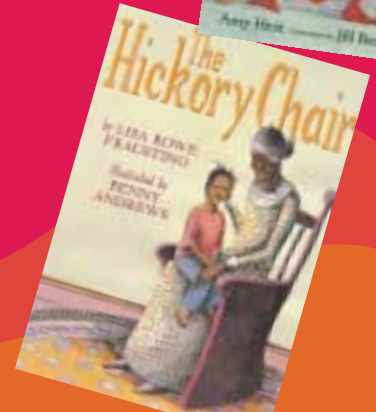
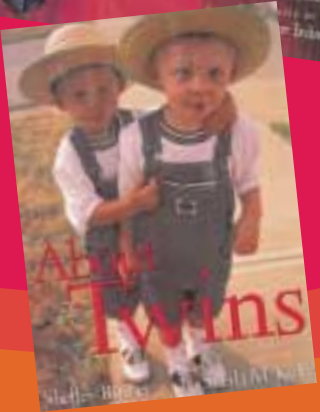
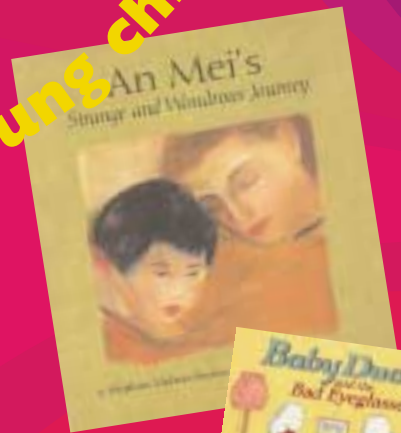
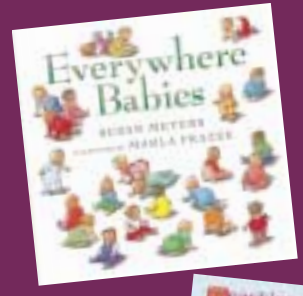
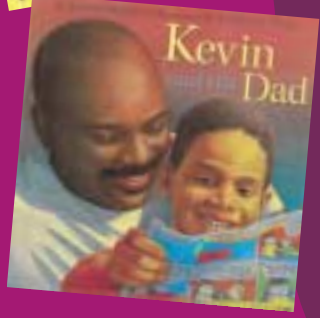
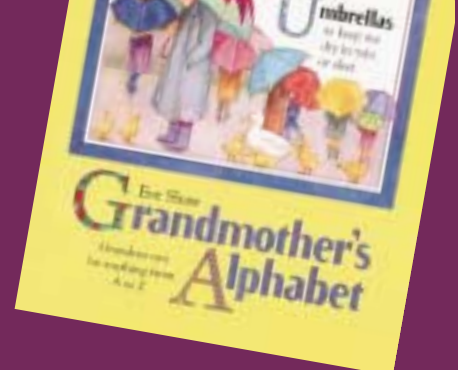
Preschool Picks

Books for reading aloud with young children

by Molly Weston



Partnerships for Inclusion



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Preschool Picks

by Molly Weston



Partnerships for Inclusion

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

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Author's Note

Reading aloud with children is not only an important step in building the foundation for literacy, but it is a great time for sharing. What can be more rewarding than taking a child on her first visit to Oz? Or sparking an interest in manatees? Or seeing his eyes light with anticipation as he completes a rhyme on his own? How often have you learned about another country when reading a children's book? Or did you hear the real story behind an ordinary custom you've followed for years? It's all there—right between the covers of children's literature.

Throughout the years, *All Together Now!* has reviewed dozens of children's books worthy of reading aloud. We have chosen the titles carefully, looking for those that are diverse—culturally, racially, generationally, socially, economically—and which represent people of all abilities. We've searched for books showing people who live in different environments, in different areas of our country, and in different parts of the world. We've highlighted books on science and nature, and books on history. We've shown people of all ages and sizes and those who have differing interests and experiences.

Many of the books are educational—on music, art, and biography. Others are sheer fantasy, encouraging imaginations to run wild. Some of the books have photographs, some oil paintings, and others have collages to allow children to see a wide variety of illustration types.

Often the books have a particular theme in mind—health, transition, families, alike and different. There are board books for babies and those with lift-the-flaps to encourage anticipation. Counting and alphabet books help young children become familiar with numbers and letters.

No matter the topic, one over-arching guideline remains: Will the books appeal to young children? Time after time, these books have passed that test. Now, we bring back to you all the reviews published in *All Together Now!* since 1995, and we've added a few more. I hope you and the children you serve will enjoy reading and re-reading some of the books featured here.

Most of these books can be borrowed (in North Carolina) from the Early Intervention Library in Morganton—or your local library can help you find them. If certain books are not on their shelves, ask to borrow through inter-library loan. However you get the books, by all means, enjoy reading aloud to children! You'll be glad you did.

Molly Weston
Chapel Hill
2001

Tips for Reading to Children

- ◆ Read the book to yourself before you read it to a child. That way, you can anticipate the ending and plan voices for various characters.
- ◆ Choose books that compare and contrast to your children's lives.
- ◆ Choose books that you like—they may become favorites!
- ◆ Find a place to read that is comfortable for you and the children.
- ◆ Remember, a child doesn't necessarily have to be still to be listening.
- ◆ Talk about the books as you read—ask questions about
 - ▲ what's happening
 - *How many sisters does Ella have?*
 - *What color is the blanket?*
 - ▲ what the children think will happen next
 - ▲ how what's happening in the book may be similar to the children's lives.
- ◆ Invite children to help “read” familiar stories.
- ◆ Create actions for certain words and let children perform when they hear a cue.
- ◆ Act out roles; create new roles to extend the story.
- ◆ Explain words, traditions, or rituals you think might be unfamiliar.
- ◆ Remember that when a child requests the same book over and over, she is still learning new things from it.
- ◆ Watch for signs that show a child especially enjoys a particular subject or book.
- ◆ Let books be springboards to other activities.
 - ▲ *Would you like to make lemonade like Charley?*
 - ▲ *Let's listen to music and then draw what it makes us see.*
- ◆ Enjoy books with simple or silly rhymes.
- ◆ Adapt books for children with limited movement.
- ◆ Make connections between what you have read and daily experiences.
 - ▲ *Look, the clouds DO look like mashed potatoes!*
 - ▲ *Would you like a straw for your milk, like the little mouse in the story?*
- ◆ As well as selecting books for children, give them many opportunities to choose their own.
- ◆ Remember, reading to children can become a special time of bonding between child and adult.

*I learned from the age of two or three that
any room in our house, at any time of day,
was there to read in, or to be read to.*

—Eudora Welty

NC Early Intervention Library

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NC School for the Deaf
Morganton NC 28655
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ncei.library@ncmail.net



Two Mrs. Gibsons

by Toyomi Igus
 illustrations by Daryl Wells
 Children's Book Press
 ISBN 0-89239-135-9

It could have been culture clash when Mr. Gibson brought a tiny Japanese wife home to his Black Southern mother, but it wasn't. There could have been another conflict between two women who loved the same man when a little girl was born, but there wasn't. What happened instead produced a child who had the benefit of two very different, very caring women who enriched her environment with similarities, differences, and love.



About Twins

by Shelley Rotner & Sheila M. Kelly
 photographs by Shelley Rotner
 DK Ink
 ISBN 0-7894-2556-4

Multiple births are as fascinating to children as to their elders, and this stunning book captures that interest with facts, feelings, and photographs. Twins of all ages, shapes, colors, and capabilities illustrate the text. Children will quickly recognize that the print in shaded typeface is a quote from one of the children. Important family relationships are reflected—even the non-twin sibling gets a turn to speak.



A Chair for My Mother

by Vera B. Williams
 Mulberry Books
 ISBN 0-688-04074-8

This Caldecott Honor and American Library Association Notable Book relates the poignant story of a working class family struggling to get back on their feet after a fire destroys their home. Told in first person from the young girl's point of view, it relates the hard work that goes into rebuilding a family's possessions. This is a beautiful story of hope, community, and family life.



The Day We Met You

by Phoebe Koehler
 Aladdin Paperbacks
 ISBN 0-689-8096-6

Pastel crayon drawings illustrate the joy in a couple's life on the day they learn they will be adopting a baby. They tell the child all the last-minute things they did to get ready to welcome their precious bundle. The words are simple enough for even the tiniest child to understand just how special he is to his new parents.



Granddad Bill's Song

by Jane Yolen
illustrations by
Melissa Bay Mathis
A Paper Star Book
ISBN 0-698-11614-3

Jon isn't quite sure what it means when his grandfather dies—so he interviews friends and family members, always asking the same question, "What did you do on the day Granddad died?" The initial answers are accompanied by reprints from a photo album, and they prompt questions about a granddad Jon didn't really know. The explanations, along with their colorful illustrations show Granddad Bill as a handsome young man, a strong father, and a good friend—all things that combined to make him a wonderful grandfather for Jon to remember.



My Family Tree

by Nina Laden
Chronicle Books
ISBN 0-8188-1528-5

Though intended for children and their families, this delightful explanation of who's who is helpful to anyone who receives questions about family members. Laden has provided cheerful illustrations that explain relationships in a straight-forward manner that includes every possible family arrangement (I wasn't too clear about first cousins once removed myself!). The people of all sizes, ages, and diversities who adorn the pages of this guide just might help you answer a confused three-year-old who wonders "why?" or "who?"



Phoebe's Fabulous Father

by Louisa Campbell
illustrations by Bridget Starr Taylor
Harcourt Brace & Company
ISBN 0-15-200996-5

Phoebe and her mom race all over Cloud Valley running errands. It's Saturday, and the family has a concert tonight—Phoebe plays violin, Mom plays viola, and Dad plays cello. Like many children, Phoebe wishes her dad would spend less time working and more time playing—with her. As their errands take them around the city, Phoebe begins to see how important her dad is just the way he is and how important she is to him. The lovely chalk pastel and acrylic illustrations will foster marvelous discussions about families, music, love, and children.

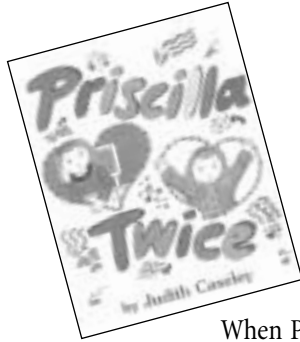
Just as people
are different,
families are
different, too.
Everybody in a
family is
important in his
or her own way.



Kevin and His Dad

by Irene Smalls
illustrations by
Michael Hays
Little Brown
ISBN 0-316-79899-1

Kevin's dad isn't Michael Jordan. He's just an ordinary man who spends quality time with his kid—and his kid adores him! The two guys work together and play together on Saturday when Mom's away. Kevin learns good work ethics and that housework is everybody's job. Dad shows Kevin that work can be enjoyed and that play time that is earned together is extra special.



Priscilla Twice

by Judith Caseley
Greenwillow Books
ISBN 0-688-13305-3

When Priscilla's parents get a divorce she feels split in two. She loves her mother. She loves her dad. She lives part of the time with each of them, and they each provide everything she needs. Everything, that is, but her whole family. Priscilla struggles through this difficult transition with help from her mom, her dad, and her teacher. You may know a Priscilla, too.



Pulling the Lion's Tail

by Jane Kurtz
illustrations by Floyd Cooper
Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers
ISBN 0-689-80324-9

This beautiful Ethiopian story tells about Almaz, a young girl whose mother has died. Eventually her father marries a young woman from another village, and Almaz finds herself wanting to win the friendship of her shy stepmother. Seeking guidance from her grandfather, one of the wise old men, Almaz learns an important lesson for life as she and her stepmother become friends.



Run with the Wind

by Caroline Pitcher
illustrations by
Jane Chapman
Little Tiger Press
ISBN 1-888444-29-0

Just as every child has fears when left by a parent, a little foal doesn't want to be left alone when his mother returns to her work at a riding stable. Of course, he didn't want to stay out in the field at night either, but his mother had calmed those fears. This is a perfect parallel for a youngster's first day in nearly any new situation. Share it with parents and children!



Summerhouse

by Laurence Anholt
illustrations by Lynne Russell
DK Ink
ISBN 0-7894-4377-5

Ella is a serious child, almost overshadowed by the fun-loving boisterous members of her family, but Grandma (who's perhaps the most fun-loving and boisterous of all) shows her a way to find the sunshine inside herself. She gives Ella the key to the summerhouse Grandpa built to keep alive the memory of the tiny island they left so long ago. Vibrant oil pastels evoke the spirit of the sunshine that Ella finds in this magical place in her grandparent's backyard—or is it inside herself?



Waiting for Baby

by Harriet Ziefert
illustrations by Emily Bolam
Henry Holt and Company
ISBN 0-8050-5929-6

Max's parents did an excellent job of preparing him for his new baby brother or sister. Only trouble is, the baby won't come! He talks to it. He sings to it. He ignores it. He even bakes for it. Finally, Max has a new sister. Expectant older siblings everywhere will enjoy sharing Max's frustration and delight.



An Mei's Strange and Wondrous Journey

by Stephan Molnar-Fenton
illustrations by Vivienne Flesher
DK Ink
ISBN 0-7894-2477-0

Recognizing the hurt his Chinese baby might feel when she learns her birth mother gave her up for adoption, Molnar-Fenton has written a poignant story. Told as a memory, An Mei relates how she was born on a train, left on the steps of an orphanage, and then brought to America to become the cherished daughter of the author and his wife. All children will recognize the love on every page of this delightful, insightful story.



Where Are You?

by Francesca Simon
illustrations by David Melling
Peachtree
ISBN 1-56145-179-7

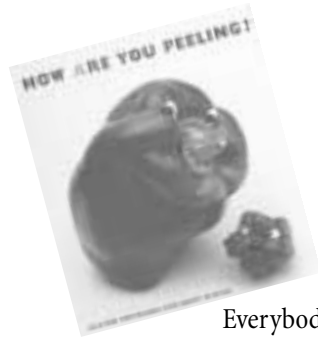
Have you ever been lost? Harry, a floppy-eared pup, is having so much fun looking around the grocery store that he becomes separated from his grandfather who is equally intent on his shopping. The ensuing panic—both Harry's and Grandpa's—delightfully reinforces the proverbial warning, "Stay together, now!"



Frog Face

by John Schindel
photographs by Janet Delaney
Henry Holt
ISBN 0-8050-5546-0

If you know someone whose nose is out of joint over a new sibling, this book can be a lifesaver! Written from the older sister's point of view and illustrated with pictures of the photographer's children, it portrays the transition from only child to big sister. One of the most poignant photos captures the sentiment expressed on the opposite page, "...and spent too much time with Mom." From first news to first day of school, the message moves from concern to appreciation.



How Are You Peeling?

by Saxton Freymann & Joost Elffers
 Arthur A. Levine Books
 ISBN 0-439-10431-9

Everybody has feelings—but we’re not always comfortable talking about them, even with children. This delightful book, subtitled “Foods with Moods,” can open a whole new way of expressing and talking about emotions. The authors have selected vegetables and fruit with suggestive “faces,” made a couple of cuts, added a black eyed pea here and there—and voila! Screaming oranges, aggressive peppers, woeful apples, friendly turnips, inquisitive pears, and secure onions. The list goes on, presenting fruits and vegetables in a totally new light. This book provides a wonderful transition springboard from mental health to nutrition to art. Every time you read it you’ll find your mood changing to one of delight.



I Hate Divorce

by Pat Hanna Otto
 illustrations by Larry Burden
 Wildwater Publications Co.
 (305/852-8813)
 ISBN 0-9657854-1-6

Inspired and encouraged by her grandchildren, Otto wrote this important book from a child’s viewpoint. She’s covered all the emotions children face—anger, sadness, fear, and understanding—when their family is torn apart. Reading this book to a child whose family is facing divorce will help her understand that it’s okay to be angry; that it’s not her fault; that other children face the same problems; and, importantly, that it’s okay to hate divorce.



I Like Being Me

ISBN 1-57542-025-2
Leader’s Guide
 by Judy Lalli
 photos by Douglas L. Mason-Fry
 Free Spirit Publishing
 ISBN 1-57542-026-0

Everybody needs a method of self-affirmation occasionally. *I Like Being Me* offers children ways to look at their own feelings and those of others, to appreciate their friends, to tell the truth, and so much more. The accompanying black and white photos illustrate the poems beautifully with real children in real situations. In case the poems don’t inspire your listeners to dramatize them, the *Leader’s Guide* provides an entire series of activities to enhance self-esteem and empower children to make good decisions.

I’m a Girl!

by Lila Jukes
 illustrations by Susan Keeter
 Cool Kids Press
 ISBN 1-56790-519-6

Lila Jukes, a veteran in the children’s book field, has created a book that celebrates being a girl—not being traditionally beautiful. The girls in this book talk about being brave, powerful, strong, courageous, smart, and independent. These girls value themselves for what is inside them; and they will require the rest of the world to look at them in the same way. What a grand way to empower even the tiniest girls!



The Feelings Storybook

by Alexandra Delis-Abrams, PhD
illustrations by Shari Scott
ABC Feelings, Inc.
e-mail feelings@iea.com
ISBN 1-879889-23-4

Vignettes for feelings beginning with each letter of the alphabet allow children opportunities to role play the good, the bad, and even the ugly: Nina feels naughty, Wendy feels worried, and Zachary is zippy. Thoughtful questions at the end of each story guide the reader in helping children understand their own feelings and those of their peers.



Hands Are Not for Hitting

by Martine Agassi, PhD
illustrations by Marieka Heinlen
Free Spirit Publishing (800/735-7323
www.freespirit.com)
ISBN 1-57542-077-5

Gentle suggestions in this delightful interactive book redirect toddlers and preschoolers toward peaceful conflict resolution. Illustrations show children of different cultures and abilities interacting with other children and adults—even children who have been provoked to anger. The author offers possible reasons for the anger and ways a child can react to her situation. A helpful adult guide offers activities for reinforcing these skills.



Just Because I Am: A Child's Book of Affirmation

ISBN 0-915793-60-1
Leader's Guide
by Lauren Murphy Payne, MSW &
Claudia Rohling
Free Spirit Press
ISBN 0-915793-61-X

In this era of getting in touch with our feelings, Payne and Rohling have developed a mini-course on self-esteem just for kids—and it's reinforcing for adults too. The beautifully illustrated children's book has a rhythmic narrative that is sure to become a favorite for all. Children are assured that they are worthwhile, that their feelings are important, and that it's okay to make mistakes. It's a grand book to read aloud and talk about even without the leader's guide which provides thirteen lessons on self-affirmation, including "This is my body," "When I feel angry," and "Sometimes I say 'No.'" Each lesson has classroom activities, suggestions for talking about the lesson, and handouts to be photocopied and sent home. When the two books are combined, the effect is much, much more than the sum of the parts!

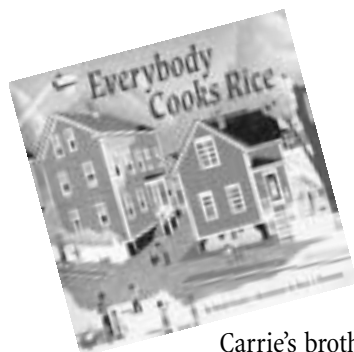


Badger's Bad Mood

by Hiawyn Oram
illustrated by Susan Varley
Arthur A. Levine Books
ISBN 0-590-18920-4

Badger's bad mood affected everyone in the forest. He nearly snapped off Bat's head. He offended Squirrel and Rabbit. They went away. Fortunately for all the animal friends, Mole was patient. He listened to what Badger said. Then he involved all the animals in a heartwarming solution to the bad mood blahs. This is a lovely story about caring and thinking about others—and friendship.

Helping children to talk about feelings is a good way to let them know you care about them.



Everybody Cooks Rice

by Norah Dooley
illustrated by Peter J. Thornton
Carolrhoda Books
ISBN 0-87614-591-8

Carrie's brother is missing at dinner time and she's sent to find him. As she follows him through the neighborhood, Carrie finds that her neighbors from Barbados, Puerto Rico, Vietnam, India, China, and Haiti all have a kitchen ingredient in common with her own grandmother from northern Italy—rice. As Carrie tastes a bit from each kitchen, readers begin feeling hungry themselves. Fortunately, there's a recipe for each country's dish in the back of the book!



Baby Born

by Anastasia Suen
illustrated by Chih-Wei Chang
Lee & Low Books
ISBN 1-880000-68-7

Each beautiful spread of this poem for tots is rich with color, rhyme, and seasons. Lift-up flaps reveal pictures that complement the story. The cover illustration alone could entertain a youngster for several minutes given thoughtful questions from an adult. This gentle celebration of a baby's first year will stimulate thoughts about diversity for years to come.



Why Am I Different?

by Norma Simon
illustrated by Dora Leder
Concept Books
ISBN 0-8075-0075-6

Different children take turns explaining how they are like others—and different. They describe looks, families, schools, housing, relatives, vacations, school lunches, occupations. They talk about how they feel about being alike—and different. This book will allow every child to feel good about something about herself.

Friends Together: More Alike than Different

by Rochelle Burnett
photos by Carl Sahlott & Matt Brown
Checkerboard Press, Inc.
ISBN 1-56288-429-8

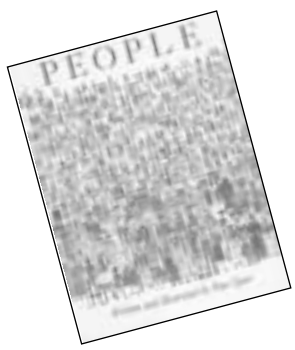
These beautifully colored, 17" x 11" posters introduce classes to the students at the Rainbow School, five of whom have a disability. The photos show the children working, playing, and having fun together. On the back of each picture are several sections to help teachers use the posters as classroom tools. One section describes the pictures and the special need involved, another suggests questions to help children understand special needs, and others give activities to strengthen certain skills for all children. This is a wonderful classroom tool.



Families Are Different

by Nina Pellegrini
Holiday House
ISBN 0823408876

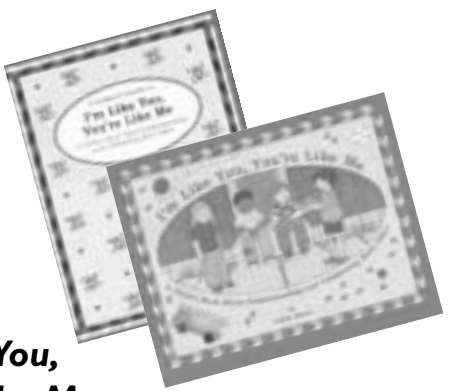
When Nico notices that she and her sister, who were adopted as babies from Korea, don't look at all like their adoptive parents, she experiences emotions ranging from sadness to anger. Fortunately her mother explains about the wonderful glue for sticking families together—love. She suggests that Nico look at other families to see how they are alike and different too. Nico soon realizes that the thing we all have in common is difference!



People

by Peter Spier
Zephyr
ISBN 0-385-24469-X

Although this book is available from our lending library, you'll want to have your own copy because it's sure to be one children demand over and over! This most comprehensive lesson on diversity includes religion, occupations, games, dress, races, shapes, communication, and much, much more. Children and adults alike will feel better about themselves after exploring this marvelously rich oversized book.



I'm Like You, You're Like Me

by Cindy Gainer
Free Spirit Publishing
ISBN 1-57542-039-2
Leader's Guide
ISBN 1-57542-039-2

Use the book alone for a marvelous celebration of tolerance and diversity. Add the *Leader's Guide*, and there's curriculum for a full year! Children and families with different abilities, colors, and sizes celebrate the ways they are alike and different. Even pets and houses are different—and alike. Sharing, learning, accepting are all part of having fun together in this delightful celebration.

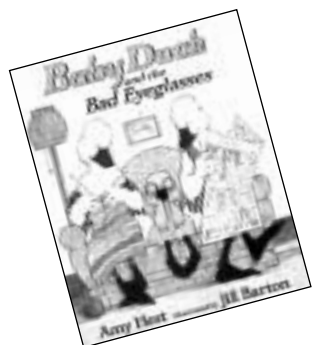


The Robots

by Matt Novak
DK Ink
ISBN 0-7894-2566-1

The new family in the neighborhood just doesn't fit. They're blue! And they do things differently, so differently, in fact, nobody will speak to them. Their children aren't admitted to school. The Peebles family, Mr. Bumpus, and Miss Grizwald go to their home to tell them they will just have to move. They are all surprised to find their visit to the Robot's house is a lot of fun—and all the neighbors have a lot in common. This is a great expression of "everybody's alike, everybody's different"!

Children love to find out how things and people are alike and different. Give them time to express their opinions and explore their similarities and their differences.



Baby Duck and the Bad Eyeglasses

by Amy Hest
illustrated by Jill Barton
Candlewick Press
ISBN 1-56402-680-9

Baby Duck is absolutely inconsolable about her new eyeglasses! She doesn't look like herself anymore, and they really cramp her style when she goes on an outing with her parents. Only when her kindly grandfather comes for a visit does Baby Duck see the advantages to her glasses. This beautifully illustrated, oversized storybook is so much more than a pleasure to read: It shows how children with disabilities react to their assistive technology, and it shows the special relationship that young children have to their older relatives. The lovely pencil and watercolor pictures will brighten a rainy afternoon—or recall the pleasures of spring.



My Brother Sammy

by Becky Edwards & David Armitage
Millbrook Press
ISBN 0-7613-9439-8

Everyone recognizes Sammy, the special child, the child who knocks down towers and who lies on the grass and stares at the sky. But do you recognize his brother? Sammy's sibling tells his story about how he feels about having a brother with autism—and about wishing sometimes that Sammy weren't special. Then, in that serendipitous moment when Sammy has been especially trying, he says something that makes his brother feel oh, so special too.



The Hickory Chair

by Lisa Rowe Fraustino
illustrations by Benny Andrews
Arthur A. Levine
ISBN 0-590-52248-5

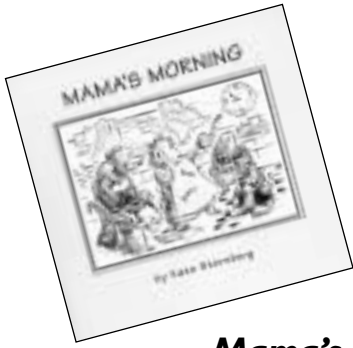
“You've got blind sight, Louis,” his grandmother told him—and it is true. Louis, who really can't see, uses his special skill to find people during hide and seek and later on, clues that Gran hid to give her favorite things to her favorite relatives. Mostly though, Louis uses his gift to recall wonderful memories of his very special grandmother.

Kids with Special Needs

by Veronica Getskow & Dee Konczal
illustrated by
Bev Armstrong
The Learning Works
ISBN 0-88160-244-2



What's that old adage about not being all things to all people? Well, Getskow and Konczal obviously hadn't heard it—thank goodness! By providing “information and activities to promote awareness and understanding,” this book helps teachers, parents, people with disabilities, and even trainers. One section defines major areas of disabilities, others offer suggestions for incorporating kids with special needs into groups. Some activities dispel myths, others provide insight to having disabilities. A bibliography suggests resources and opportunities to get involved. Don't borrow this book from the library—you'll want your own copy!



Mama's Morning

by Kate Sternberg
Advantage Books (888-238-8588)
ISBN 0-9660366-0-3

You probably know Mama Hamster and her four precious children, Hannah, Holly, Howie, and Harry. Mama has ADD, and she has a hard time getting everyone off in the morning with everything they're supposed to have with them. Sometimes she forgets things; sometimes she's late; usually she's disorganized; but always she's a loving parent who wants the best for her children. Fortunately, the Hamster family watches out for each other and pitches in for the good of the group with good cheer, much love, and delightful flexibility.

Rainbow Joe and Me

by Maria Diaz Strom
Lee & Low Books
ISBN 1-880000-93-8



It doesn't matter to Eloise that her elderly friend, Joe, is blind: She still tells him about all the colors she loves. Eloise loves colors—mixing them, painting with them, and posting her colorful paintings everywhere. Joe insists that he loves colors too; he even tells her about yellow, the color of butter, and red, all hot and spicy. Then he tells her that blue is his favorite color of all. Eloise doesn't understand until Joe gets a big package which he assures her will explain his special love of colors. Eloise's surprise will delight your children and will provide a wonderful transition into another favorite classroom activity.

Rolling Along with Goldilocks and the Three Bears

by Cindy Meyers
illustrations by Carol Morgan
Woodbine House
ISBN 1-890627-12-7



This updated version of everybody's favorite bear tale introduces children to Baby Bear "who used a wheelchair to get around." Meyers, a physical therapist assistant, wrote the book both to support the children she works with and to introduce children to disabilities. Mostly what the book does is point out the similarities and differences among all children. This upbeat story will have all children intrigued by ramps and special equipment!

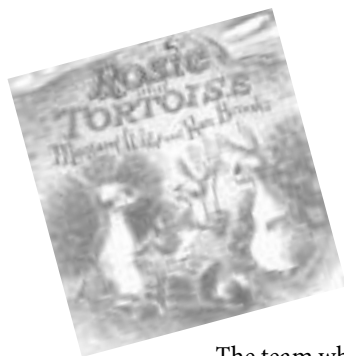
Everybody has special needs sometimes. Talk with your children about how we all need help occasionally and how we can offer help to others. Let children know it's all right to ask questions about disabilities. Help them learn how to ask.



A Place for Grace

by Jean Davies Okimoto
illustrated by Doug Keith
Sasquatch Books
ISBN 0-91236573-0

This delightful story is about Grace, a dog whose dream is to become a seeing eye dog. When she finds she is too small, she is dismayed—but a man named Charlie is determined to have her for his hearing dog. Not only is this an endearing story about the training of hearing dogs, it's also a lesson about finding another avenue for achieving personal excellence. Everyone will enjoy Grace!



Rosie and Tortoise

by Margaret Wild
illustrated by Ron Brooks
DK Ink
ISBN 0-7894-2639-7

The team who brought tears to our eyes in *Old Pig* are together again, this time with an endearing tale of Rosie, who can't wait to show her new baby sibling all the ropes of being a young hare. When the newborn appears early, he's quite tiny, and Rosie is afraid to touch him—let alone teach him to hop. Rosie's wise father tells her a story that helps her understand how sometimes even the smallest and weakest among us get to the finish line and all its glory.



Susan Laughs

by Jeanne Willis
illustrated by Tony Ross
Henry Holt & Company
ISBN 0-8050-6501-6

Colored pencil and crayon drawings introduce readers to Susan, a delightful, typical child. She laughs, swings, dances, swims, and hides just like her peers. She gets angry, she gets into mischief, and she makes mistakes. So, what's the big deal? Nothing really, not even her wheelchair!



Someone Special, Just Like You

by Tricia Brown
photographs by Fran Ortiz
Henry Holt & Company
ISBN 0-8050-428-7

This is a lovely black and white picture book with upbeat text describing the similarities among preschoolers. The children in the photographs have various disabilities—some of them severe—but the lively commentary dispels fears of the disability and reinforces the similarity of these children to those who are developing typically. What a wonderful opportunity to let youngsters see just how alike we all are—despite our differences.



A Very Special Critter

by Gina and Mercer Mayer
A Golden Book from Western Publishing Co., Inc.
ISBN 0-307-12763-X

Little Critter has a new school chum, Alex, a flop-eared rabbit who uses a wheelchair. Little Critter's teacher prepares the kids so thoroughly to be good helpers to Alex that they are surprised to see he rarely needs help—just understanding. Alex zooms around the playground and up the ramps, accepting a gentle push occasionally, but also offering help to his classmates. Little Critter is quick to point out the ways he and his friends are alike—as well as different.



We Can Do It!

by Laura Dwight
Star Bright Books
ISBN 1-887734-34-1

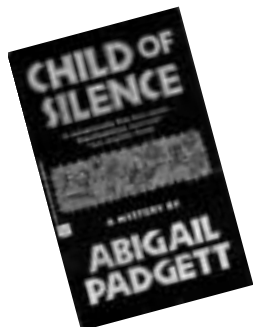
Gina, David, Jewel, Emiliano, and Sarah are beautiful, lively, sparkling, involved children. Laura Dwight presents them in vibrant full-color photographs with their families, friends, and abilities. All five children tell their own story about the things they can do and their own special needs. Reviewers Emily (age four) and Duncan Vaughn (age two) loved it! Emily had her mom find the glossary in the back to read more about the disabilities.



You'll Grow Soon, Alex

by Andrea Shavick & Russell Ayto
Walker Press
ISBN 0-8027-8736-3

Alex, a very small boy, does everything he can to make himself grow tall. He follows directions from his mom, his dad, and his teacher—but nothing works. Then one day, he talks with Uncle Danny, the tallest man Alex knows, and Uncle Danny gives him a secret that makes Alex the...well, you'll just have to read it and see! A wonderful book for children who are different.



Child of Silence

by Abigail Padgett
Mysterious Press
ISBN 0-446-49184-6

This excellent mystery is pertinent to anyone who works with children who have special needs. Bo Bradley, a person with bipolar disorder, is a child abuse investigator. Just as she feels a bout of mania beginning, she is asked to visit just one more child who has been abandoned. He's in the hospital, considered to have mental retardation. As soon as Bo sees Weppo, she realizes his non-communicative status stems from his being deaf. Bo risks everything in helping this child as they face danger from the system as well as from those who are trying to harm Weppo. Abigail Padgett won an award from the Alliance for the Mentally Ill of New York State for her accurate portrayal of bipolar disorder. Her depiction of the children of silence should win another.

A Slant of Sun

by Beth Kephart
W. W. Norton
ISBN 0-393-02742-2

Rarely is the story of a special child told in words that draw gasps of pleasure from a reader, but Beth Kephart does that in her haunting story about Jeremy. Kephart reveals the struggles, fears, trials, disappointments, and, yes, the victories of her beautiful child diagnosed with pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified.

Kephart expresses the wishes of many parents of children with special needs, "Treat him just like any other student [but]...He'll walk beneath the swings; don't let him." Then she shares her fears once she's left him, "I worry myself crazy." She shares, too, the reassurances she feels when she finds caring providers for her son. *A Slant of Sun* offers a key to unlock the secret recesses of our own souls and those of the children who march to a different drummer.



Let children talk about people they know who have disabilities. Share stories of your own about friends who are alike—and different.



My Two Grandmothers

by Effin Older
 illustrations by Nancy Hayashi
 Harcourt
 ISBN 0-15-200785-7

As one little girl chronicles the differences of her two grandmothers—one's a well-to-do city dweller who belongs to a country club and has two homes, the other lives on a farm and looks to the land for her enjoyment—she is also drawing a parallel between the two women who love her and spend time with her. Soon the child draws her own conclusion that diverse family traditions make a more vibrant life for a child fortunate enough to enjoy love from different backgrounds.



The Drums of Noto Hanto

by J. Alison James
 illustrations by Tsukushi
 DK Publishing, Inc.
 ISBN 0-7894-2574-2

'Way back in sixteenth century Japan, a messenger rides into the tiny village of Noto Hanto. His warning: Kenshin, the powerful warlord of the wealthiest village on the coast is coming to overtake Noto Hanto. The poor villagers assemble all their weapons to defend their homes, but they have nothing but their tools for living. With bravery and ingenuity, however, everyone—adults and children alike—works together to hold off the powerful samurai and his warriors. This beautiful book provides a delightful bridge to art, music, history, and cultural similarities and differences.



A Ride on Mother's Back

A Day of Baby Carrying Around the World

by Emery Bernhard
 illustrated by Durga Bernhard
 Guilliver Books, Harcourt Brace Company
 ISBN 0-15-200870-5

What do children have in common from Guatemala to the Sahara to the frozen inlets of Canada's far north? Their transportation, of course! They ride on Mother's back (or Sister's or Grandfather's, but they all ride). The beautiful watercolor paintings accurately depict daily life in many cultures across the world and the story explains the lessons the children absorb from their surroundings.



Elizabeth's Doll

by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen
 illustrated by Christy Hale
 Lee & Low Books
 ISBN 1-880000-70-9

When her mother has a new baby to care for, Elizabeth decides to give a doll the same attention; however, in the small village in Tanzania where she lives, dolls are unavailable. Elizabeth finds a large, doll-sized rock which she names Eva—and she mirrors her mother's careful attention to baby brother Obedi. Children in our land of plenty will sympathize with Elizabeth when Eva disappears. The lovely illustrations give wonderful opportunities for questions about alike and different.



Greetings, Sun

by Phillis & David Gershator
paintings by Synthia Saint James
DK Ink
ISBN 0-7894-2482-7

Lilting Caribbean poetry and cheerful illustrations will brighten the day for even the grumpiest sleepyhead who hears this joyful celebration of life. The Gershators give their readers a day with a brother and sister who are fortunate enough to live in a world that appreciates daily life. Don't be surprised to hear your own toddlers singing out, "Greetings, grass. Greetings, trees. Greetings, ants. Greetings, bees."

Down in the Subway

by Miriam Cohen
illustrated by
Melanie Hope Greenberg
DK Ink
ISBN 0-7737-3108-3



A long boring ride on a hot New York subway turns into a whirlwind trip to the Caribbean when Oscar meets the Island Lady. Her big straw bag holds fabulous treats for all—and she shares them one by one. This fun tale reinforces asking permission before talking with strangers and then goes on to prove that you can't judge a person just by looking!

How My Family Lives in America

by Susan Kuklin
Bradbury Press
ISBN 0027512398

Sanu is an African-American child whose father was born in Senegal, West Africa. Eric's dad was born in Puerto Rico. Both of April's parents were born in Taiwan. The parents of all these children are making their native culture a large part of their family's lives through food, clothing, language, and customs. The children are proud of their heritage and revel in the differences that make them special.



Cleversticks

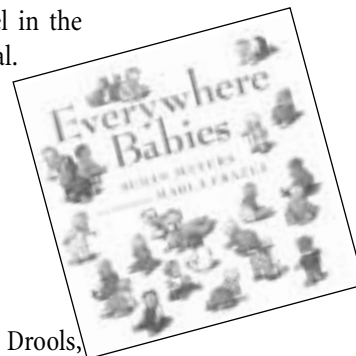
by Bernard Ashley
illustrated by
Derke Brazell
Crown Press
ISBN 0-517-88332-5

By the second day of school, Ling Sung has decided he doesn't want to go back. All the other kids in his class can do something better than he—tie shoes, button sweaters, write names. An accident during snack time, however, brings Ling Sung to the forefront when he uses his "cleversticks" to entertain (and teach) the whole class, even the teacher. Everybody can empathize with Ling Sung; everybody will enjoy reading about him.

Everywhere Babies

by Susan Meyers
illustrated by Marla Frazee
Harcourt
ISBN 0-15-202226-0

Families, friends, pets, and toys. Drools, spills, yowls, and sighs. Joy, anger, frustration, and exhaustion. Young folks, old folks, black folks, brown folks. Beaches, bathtubs, playgrounds, sofas. Everything that touches their lives is included in this richly illustrated book about and for babies. Read it with someone cuddly.



Celebrate diversity! These books will take you on a magical journey and then safely back home. Enjoy the richness of other cultures as you explore our wonderful world. For more books about diversity, check out our website at www.fpg.unc.edu/~pfi. Select "Products" and then "Diversity Booklist."



Backpack Baby

ISBN 1-887734-58-9

Mine!

A Backpack Baby Story

by Miriam Cohen
Star Bright Books, Inc.
ISBN 1-887734-59-7

As Backpack Baby and his dad walk around their village, Baby shares secrets with the people they meet. Toddlers will love identifying with the happy baby, and they'll delight in predicting his secrets. Adults will appreciate the "mine" tendency, and everybody will appreciate the colorful illustrations of recurring characters in these sturdy board books.



The Get Well Soon Book

by Kes Gray
illustrated by Mary McQuillan
The Millbrook Press
ISBN 0-7613-1435-0

Laughter may not be the best medicine, but it certainly helps. The zany animals and their preposterous ailments in this delightful look at sickness and accidents will brighten the day of any child, whether she's just getting the sniffles or he's laid up with something more serious. Preschoolers will enjoy sympathizing with Pedro the penguin and Delia the dragon (who sneezed and burned herself), and all the others. In fact, everybody will feel better after reading this book!

The Pig in a Wig

by Alan MacDonald
illustrated by Paul Hess
Peachtree Press
ISBN 156145197-5



How often do we caution children to "be yourself"? Peggoty, a polite, kind-hearted pig, was rather proud of her looks until some unmannered lambs called out to her, "Ugly ol' pig. You're pink and fat, and you're baaaald, too." Peggoty's feelings are hurt, and she takes all sorts of steps to conform to other animals' standards of beauty. Fortunately, however, Peggoty overhears the farmer's wife talking to their young baby, and Peggoty realizes that beauty is, indeed, in the eye of the beholder.



Happy Birthday!

ISBN 1-887734-05-8

Opposites

by Angela Bednarczyk & Janet Weinstock
Star Bright Books
ISBN 1-887734-06-6

Even the smallest children will enjoy communicating with signs—and these two board books are just right for beginning lessons. *Happy Birthday* includes signs for several party items, such as gifts, candles, balloons, and numbers from one to five. *Opposites* runs the gamut from "full and empty" to "happy and sad." Both books feature drawings and photographs of children from diverse ethnic groups.



Ting-a-ling!

by Siobhan Dodds
DK Publishing, Inc.
ISBN 0-7894-4841-6

Often people hesitate to let very young children hold books because they might tear pages or nibble corners. DK's "toddler friendly" series addresses this issue by using special sturdy pages that withstand tough use. *Ting-a-ling!* is the story about Tilly, a toddler busy talking on the telephone—but to whom? Your toddlers will enjoy finding the answer. Others in the series are *Silly Goose and Dizzy Duck Play Hide-and-Seek*, *Grandma Rabbit's Visit*, *What About Me?*, *Rory and the Lion*, and *Hide and Sleep*.



Sidney Won't Swim

by Hilde Schuurmans
Charlesbridge
ISBN 1-57091-476-1

Summer's on its way and so is swimming. While that thought brings giggles and grins to most children, some, like Sidney, are a bit reluctant to brave the wet wonder. Patient, understanding adults and impatient, thoughtless children help Sidney overcome his fear of water. This book might just well help other children overcome their fear of swimming.

Can You Jump Like a Kangaroo?

ISBN 1-56402-880-1

Can You Peck Like a Hen?

by Jez Alborough
Candlewick Press
ISBN 1-56402-881-X



Big pictures. Strong lines. Vivid colors. Action! What children don't like pop-up books with hidden words and pictures? Emily Vaughn, age four enjoys them even more now that she can manipulate them with anticipation. "These are fun—but that's not a monkey, it's a GORILLA!" she told her mom. "I didn't realize that Duncan, at sixteen months, would like them—but he loved them and tried to grab the animals," reported their mother. Your children will have fun imitating these realistic, but extremely humorous animals.

Book! Book! Book!

by Deborah Bruss
illustrations by Tiphonie Beeke
Scholastic Press
ISBN 0-439-13525-7



Communication is one of mankind's basic tools—and the animals find out it's absolutely critical, too, when they try to check out books from the town library. Cooperation is also pretty important as they work to get the librarian to understand their needs. Young children will delight in imitating the sounds in this beautifully illustrated fantasy.

Inspiration!
Anticipation!
Imitation!
Comparison!
Don't be surprised by children's excitement when you read these books aloud. Be prepared for hands-on participation as you enjoy these books together.



A Child's Book of Lullabies

with paintings by Mary Cassatt
compiled by Shona McKellar
Doring Kindersley
ISBN 0-7894-1507-0

Why didn't somebody think about this book sooner! Lullabies are ubiquitous to all cultures—mothers sing them in every language. Impressionist Mary Cassatt is probably best known for her paintings of mothers and children. What could possibly make a better book for children and the people who love them? Thirteen favorite lullabies—from “Cum By Yah” to “Lullaby and Good Night” to “Hush, Little Baby,” with all the verses in large type, and a simple-to-play music score are beautifully matched with a full-page reproduction of a Cassatt pastel. A brief biography of America’s first internationally famous woman artist makes the book even more special.



The Maestro Plays

by Bill Martin Jr.
illustrated by Vladimir Radunsky
Voyager Books
Harcourt Brace & Company
ISBN 0-15-201217-6

The author and illustrator of this grand book incorporate many ideas for combining movement and art projects. Words such as “reachingly, zippingly, clippingly, pippingly, and slowly” describe a musician’s style so vividly that children will be inspired to mimic the antics of the maestro. Strong primary colors and distinctive typography highlight the words and give clues to their meaning. This will be a marvelous transition tool from a movement activity to an art project.



A Child's Book of Art: Great Pictures, First Words

selected by Lucy Micklethwait
Doring Kindersley
ISBN 1-56458-203-5

Lucy Micklethwait has selected more than one hundred exquisite paintings from museums all over the world to illustrate a dictionary for very young children. Families, pets, concepts, senses, emotions, colors, work, play—everything that touches people through the ages is featured in this magnificent oversized book. The lunch picture is “One of the Family,” which shows a farm family at the table, with their work horse sticking his head over the top of the Dutch door. The mother is actually holding something for him to eat, while the dog waits patiently for his turn. This homely scene is juxtaposed against the featured dinner of “The King of Portugal and John of Gaunt,” a 15th century French manuscript illustration. The king and his entourage, dressed in rich colors, are seated at a formal table with waiters, musicians, rich colors on the walls and floors, and opulent decorations. This book will provide hours of entertaining learning for children of all ages.

Spot a Cat

ISBN 0-7894-0144-4

Spot a Dog

ISBN 0-7894-0145-2

Lucy Micklethwait

Doring Kindersley



By combining children's favorite "I Spy" with some of the world's most beloved paintings Micklethwait takes even the tiniest children on an interactive tour of fabulous art galleries. Familiar animals hide in each painting, and finding the dog or cat will give way to many questions—about dress, transportation, lifestyles, people, and culture. Older children will notice differences in color, technique, and style. These marvelous companion books will take you and your children on a fabulous journey without leaving the comfort of your reading chair!

What Instrument Is This?

by Rosmarie Hausherr
Scholastic Inc.

ISBN 0-590-44644-4



Hausherr opens her beautiful, informative book with a colored picture of a child playing a musical instrument and the question, "What instrument is a long, hollow piece of wood with eight holes?" There's plenty of opportunity for the adult to elicit responses from children listening to the reading, because the answer is not given until the next page, which shows in black and white several children playing recorders with their teacher. A complete description of how the recorder makes music follows. On the opposite page, another colored picture, and another instrument is presented—for a total of seventeen instruments. Children and adults will enjoy this delightful journey into musical instruments.

Come Look with Me: World of Play

ISBN 1-56566-031-5

Exploring Landscape Art with Children

ISBN 1-0-934738-95-5

Animals in Art

ISBN 1-556566-013-7

Enjoying Art with Children

ISBN 0-934738-76-9

all by Gladys S. Blizzard

Discovering Photographs with Children

by Jean S. Tucker

ISBN 1-56566-062-5

all books from Thomasson-Grant

This marvelous series uses visual arts as a springboard for virtually every subject: history, mathematics, science, geography, nature, psychology, and human relations. Excellent reprints of famous works of art are featured with appropriate open-ended questions to help children experience the artwork. Most of the subjects pictured include children, so youngsters will identify with them and ask their own questions. A brief biography of the artist coupled with a history of the picture will transform the reader into a curator, making question-answering easier. Many schools of art are featured—from tapestry to cave drawings, and from Impressionism to Cubism. Photos are from daguerreotype to sharp black and white to color. These books offer a grand opportunity for children to recognize the importance of self-expression. I suspect that adults will find themselves curled up with these books after the children are asleep!



When children develop a love for books and reading, there's no end to the things they can learn! Adding books about music and art can open doors to concerts and museums that will foster a life-long joy of learning.



Jubela

by Christina Kessler
 illustrated by Jo Ellen
 McAllister Stamm
 Simon & Schuster
 ISBN 0-689-81895-5

On the African plain of Swaziland, baby rhino plays happily in the mud, watched carefully by his mother. Late that night, she awakens baby and urges him to run—faster and faster until suddenly she drops. Exhausted, baby sleeps by her side. The next day, even though he can't wake her, he is afraid to leave her side. Too frightened to move, he gets weaker and hungrier. Finally, he scents a familiar smell. Everyone will cheer when an old mother rhino adopts baby and teaches him how to survive.



Little Panda

by Joanne Ryder
 Simon & Schuster
 ISBN 0-689-84310-0

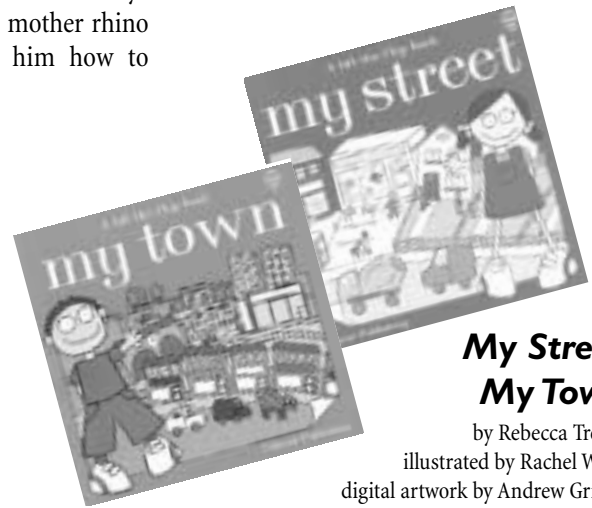
Youngsters will delight in the story of Hua Mei and her first year of life at the San Diego Zoo. Children will enjoy comparing their own baby pictures to photos of the tiny bear cub as she grows and plays and learns. A factual story and side notes combine for an interesting science text just for preschoolers.



A Manatee Morning

by Jim Arnosky
 Simon & Schuster
 ISBN 0-689-81604-9

Soft watercolor illustrations of Florida's gentle giants complement lyrical poetry in the story of a mother manatee and her baby. Winner of the Eva L. Gordon Award for outstanding children's science literature, Arnosky doesn't overlook the danger man presents to the engaging animals. Information is included for the Save the Manatee Club.



My Street My Town

by Rebecca Treays
 illustrated by Rachel Wells
 digital artwork by Andrew Griffin
 geography consulting by Rex Walford
 Usborne Publishing
 ISBN 07460-3077-0 & 00-7460-3079-7

These two fascinating lift-the-flap books introduce children to civics in a way that you and I never saw! The young narrators show readers the people who live, work, and travel through their streets and town using people of all ages, ethnicities, and abilities. Thinking exercises let children compare and contrast their own homes to those in the books. Enjoy these brightly illustrated, totally interactive learning books.



Bubble Monster and Other Science Fun

by John H. Falk, Robert L. Pruitt, II, Kristi. S. Rosenberg & Tali A. Katz
Chicago Review Press
ISBN 1-55652-301-7

Who said little children don't need to learn about science? Certainly not the National Science Foundation, which provided funding to the ScienceMinders project of the YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County to develop the activities in this exciting book. Each activity is clearly defined by age, preparation time, and topic. Suggested variations will tempt children to further research; and, a section called "think about it" explains the scientific theory behind the experiments. The ideas in this book will stimulate your creativity—you'll find yourself turning your classroom into a virtual science laboratory!



Sense-Abilities

by Michelle O'Brien-Palmer
Chicago Review Press
ISBN 1-55652-327-0

Subtitled "Fun Ways to Explore the Senses," this guide is a terrific way to introduce young children to different abilities. The activities provide opportunities for typically developing children to find out for themselves what it's like to be without certain abilities—and for children with disabilities to show their peers how they may have developed compensation skills. The author proves her in-class experience with her time-saving hints for many of the activities. Enjoy this hands-on volume!



MathArts

by MaryAnn F. Kohl & Cindy Gainer
Gryphon House, Inc.
ISBN 0-87659-177-2

No I did not get the title wrong! This fabulous oversized guidebook contains 200 activities to help preschoolers explore math through art. As children learn sorting, matching, one-to-one correspondence, and patterning, they're developing essential math concepts. Add counting, measuring, and number values, and preschool math is learned with fun! All supplies and materials are listed at the beginning of the project page, as are suggested ages, amount of preparation time, whether or not help may be required, and caution indicators. Explanations of which skills are reinforced with the projects validate once again, "ART is fundamental!"

When children's minds are open and ready to learn, fill them with the joy of science, nature, math, and geography. Help them realize learning is fun—no matter the topic.



Tiger Trail

by Kay Winters
illustrated by
Laura Regan
Simon & Schuster
ISBN 0-689-82323-1

Introduce your children to the reality of the jungle in this straight-forward story of a mother tiger and her two kits. No words are wasted as the tigress narrates the story of bringing up her family, "They pat, they pounce, they poke with paws. They bite my tail. I snarl to teach them manners." The rich illustrations are a perfect setting for the sparse text. Get ready to read this one over and over.



Firefighters A to Z

by Chris L. Demarest
Margaret L. McElderry Books
Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing
ISBN 0-689-83798-4

Before the next field trip to your local fire station, educate youngsters and adults alike about the equipment that firefighters use every day—and the real dangers they experience. Richly illustrated in warm pastels, the text is in rhyme, with a meter that's easy for children to learn and remember.



The Handmade Alphabet

by Laura Rankin
Dial Books
ISBN 0-8037-0974-9

The back cover of this beautiful book says it all, "Laura Rankin was inspired to create this artwork showing the manual alphabet by her experience with her older stepson, who until the age of eighteen had to rely on lipreading because of a hearing impairment." Every letter of the alphabet merits a full page, with a picture of the signed letter and an illustration of a word beginning with that letter. Facing pages "R" and "S," for instance, show an adult hand twined with ribbon and a child's hand with beautiful stamps. There's something here for all ages in these wonderful colored pencil drawings.



Potluck

by Anne Shelby
pictures by Irene Trivas
Orchard Paperbacks
ISBN 0-531-07045-X

When you're trying to get children to try new foods, use this alphabetical feast for inspiration. Alpha and Betty invite their friends to a potluck dinner, and quite coincidentally, each friend's name starts with a different letter of the alphabet—and each brings a dish that begins with the same letter as her name! Alliteration, bright color, diversity, and humor provide the right recipe for a scintillating smorgasbord!



Grandmother's Alphabet

by Eve Shaw
Pfeifer-Hamilton
ISBN 1-57025-127-4

The detailed colored-pencil drawings of grandmothers—young, old, slender, and queen-sized—portray more than pictures of life styles for women. These are women making a difference in their world and being valued for what they do. The narrative offers several occupations for each letter of the alphabet, but they're never stereotypical jobs for women. Boys and girls alike will identify with these women of our world!



Into the A, B, Sea

by Deborah Lee Rose
pictures by Steve Jenkins
Scholastic Press
ISBN 0-439-09696-0

This delightful alphabet book takes children on a voyage beneath the sea without splashing a drop of water. Rose's rhythmic prose is colorfully illustrated by Jenkins' expressive paper collages. A full glossary at the back answers the questions curious children will be certain to ask. This is a full-blown science text for the youngest nature scholar.

Josefina

by Jeanette Winter
Harcourt Brace & Company
ISBN 015201912



Inspired by the life of Mexican folk artist Josefina Aguilar, Jeanette Winter's lovely story incorporates multiple opportunities for learning in one slim volume. First there are wonderful folk art pictures in soft purple, blue, mauve, and coral colors which illustrate the biography beautifully. The Mexican setting provides a cultural setting rich with customs familiar to many of our new North Carolinians—but new to others. Finally Winter employs counting in Spanish from one to ten.



Grandfather Counts

by Andrea Cheng
illustrations by Ange Zhang
Lee and Low
ISBN 1-58430-010-8

Helen has mixed emotions about the arrival of her grandfather from China. Not only do the family's bedrooms have to be reshuffled (Helen will lose hers), but Helen's mom is falling back into the role of daughter (Gong Gong has high standards of excellence). To top it all off, Gong Gong doesn't speak a word of English—and Helen doesn't speak Chinese! Then Gong Gong and Helen find they enjoy a mutual pastime which opens the door to communication and learning.

Using alphabet and counting books helps young children understand the concept of letters and numbers. They'll learn the order soon enough.



Mrs. McTat and Her Houseful of Cats

by Alyssa Satin Capucilli
illustrations by Joan Rankin
Margaret K. McElderry Books
ISBN 0-689-83185-4

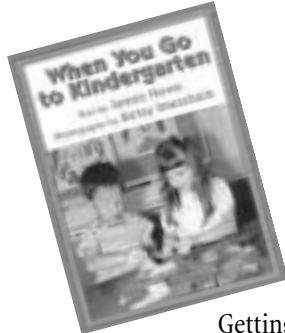
Children won't even realize this is an alphabet book, they'll be so absorbed in the new cats coming to live with Mrs. McTat and her gray cat, Abner. There's rhyming and counting and a surprise at the end that made me laugh out loud. Soft watercolors illustrate Mrs. McTat's plight as her house fills with cats. Enjoy—and be glad this book is fiction!



Get Set! Swim!

by Jeannine Atkins
illustrations by Hector Viveros Lee
Lee & Low Books
ISBN 1-880000-66-0

Jessenia and her family live in the inner city, where she is on a swim team. The first away match is against a team from an affluent neighborhood that's on a winning streak. "Everyone's equal in the water," Coach keeps saying. Jessenia's mother just keeps talking about her native Puerto Rico. When it's Jessenia's turn to swim, she suddenly sees how brave her mother was to start life in a new country—with a new language. This is a warming story about families, pride, and teamwork. The lovely illustrations depict ethnic diversities.



When You Go to Kindergarten

text by James Howe
photographs by Betsy Imershein
Morrow Junior Books
ISBN 0-688-12912-9

Getting children ready to make the big move is a huge task for B-K teachers, but this colorful guide should make the job much easier. The text addresses realities about kindergarten—transportation, lunchrooms, bathrooms, school size, fire drills—and worries that children sometimes fail to articulate—who will be my friend? will my teacher know my name? how will I know what to do? The straightforward text and photographs of beautifully diverse real classes will prove an essential tool in preparing your children for the transition from preschool to kindergarten.



Little Tiger Goes to School

by Julie Sykes
illustrations by
Tim Warnes
Little Tiger Press
ISBN 1-888444-49-5

While Little Tiger is getting ready for his first day at school, he can help children get ready for almost any transition from a new class to a move. Miss Flamingo helps all the animals in her class learn how they are alike and different, how to count, about opposites, and about colors. Busy little fingers will enjoy lifting the flaps to find even more of Little Tiger's friends. Enjoy this colorful, busy book with your children while showing them that change can be good.



Old Pig

by Margaret Wild
illustrations by
Ron Brooks
Puffin
ISBN 0-14-056211-7

Preparing young children for the death of a loved one can never be easy, but this tender story offers a beautiful bridge for talking about this sad reality. As Old Pig prepares Granddaughter Pig for life without her, she also teaches the important lessons of enjoying the beauty of nature and the gifts of kindness to those we love.



Once I Was...

by Niki Clark Leopold
illustrations by Woodleigh Marx Hubbard
G. P. Putnam's Sons
ISBN 0-399-23105-6

All children experience exciting changes as they grow, and this rhyming story celebrates the excitement in those glorious metamorphoses. Vibrant illustrations stimulate the imagination as the words are read aloud. Oh, the places you and your children will go as you share together the experiences portrayed so vividly in words and pictures!



Trevor's Wiggly-Wobbly Tooth

by Lester L. Laminack
illustrations by Kathi Garry McCord
Peachtree
ISBN 1-56145-175-4

This North Carolina author remembers—and celebrates—the fears and joys a child experiences with that first loose tooth. First Trevor's friends warn him about the well-meaning folks who will want to get rid of the offending member; then the warnings become reality as everybody voices the one best way to pull that tooth. Finally, Trevor's hip Grandma Sally steals the show, becoming in the process, the hero of the whole first grade!



Shadow

by Jill Newsome
illustrations by
Claudio Muñoz
DK Inc.
ISBN 0-7894-2631-5

Moving is hard for Rosy—her world is gray; the walk to school, dark and spooky. Then one day she finds a baby rabbit in the woods. She and her family adopt it and he follows her everywhere, becoming her shadow. Things become rosy for Rosy, but when Shadow disappears, the gray days are back—until Rosy makes a new friend. Watercolor pictures beautifully illustrate Rosy's emotions through this time of transition.



Vera's First Day of School

by Vera Rosenberry
Henry Holt & Company
ISBN 0-8050-5936-9

All the transition plans are in place. Vera's excited about going to big school. She's all ready to make the move—emotionally and materially. Then something totally unplanned happens, the bell has rung, the big green doors are closed, and Vera's first day at school goes totally awry. The calm acceptance of Vera's mother and teacher, however, turn a bad beginning into a great experience. Vera's story will help allay young children's fears of "what if?" and show them that even when things go wrong, caring adults can make them all right.

Going to a new school is just one type of transition for young children. They'll enjoy reading about others who are going through changes similar to their own.

For more books about transitions, check out our website at www.fpg.unc.edu/~pfi. Select "Products" and then "Transition Booklist."



When Kangaroo Goes to School

by Sonia Levitin
illustrated by Jeff Seaver
Rising Moon
ISBN 0-87358-791-x

More than 25 years ago Jean Kerr bemoaned the fact that all etiquette books were written for adults, most of whom had lovely manners. Now, Sonia Levitin has heard the cry and developed a delightful series for youngsters. This one is targeted toward those going to school for the first time. Levitin's directions are for a kangaroo, but savvy children will see that the same rules will work well for them: Raising a paw instead of blurting out the answer or choosing something from the cafeteria menu rather than expecting home style favorites are just two examples. Children will enjoy learning their Ps and Qs with the ever-engaging Kangaroo.



Billy and the Big New School

by Catherine & Laurence Anholt
Albert Whitman & Company
ISBN 080750743-1

Although Billy is excited about going to school, he secretly questions whether he is ready for the big adventure. Then, the last day before school, he rescues a tiny sparrow and brings it into the kitchen to recover from its perils. The next morning, Billy finds that the bird has recovered and must "go into the big world—just like Billy." The bird's courage in facing the sky helps Billy face his own day. His great day at school and his new special friend help him recognize another similarity a few days later.



Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten

by Joseph Slate
illustrations by Ashley Wolff
Penguin Putnam
ISBN 0-14-056273-7

While 26 animal children are getting ready for their first day of class, their teacher is also rushing to ensure that everything is ready for the big day. What takes this alphabet book out of the ordinary is that each animal (and the first initial of his name is also the first letter of his species) is introduced with a funny rhyme, "Patricia Packer sneaks a cracker," or "Tommy Tuttle jumps a puddle." Patricia and Tommy are a pig and a tiger, respectively. Each series of introductions is followed by a refrain that will be picked up immediately by children, "Miss Bindergarten gets ready for kindergarten." Everybody will find someone with whom they can identify in this colorful, multi-leveled picture book.



First Day, Hooray!

by Nancy Poydar
Holiday House
ISBN 0-8234-1630-5

It seems like everybody in town is getting ready for school somehow: Ivy Green articulates all the questions youngsters have about a new beginning, and her mom answers them all logically and matter-of-factly. Meanwhile, the bus driver, the teachers, and the custodian go through routines of their own to make sure everybody can say hooray on the first day of school.



Kindergarten Kids

by Ellen B. Senisi
Scholastic, Inc.
ISBN 0-590-4714-9

Photographs of real kids in a real classroom setting are the driving force of this look at typical days in kindergarten. The straight-forward text not only highlights the day, but it echoes the words of children as they express their feelings about their work and their teacher. Expect to read this one again and again.



Pete and Polo's Big School Adventure

by Adrian Reynolds
Orchard Books
ISBN 0-531-30275-X

Unlike most books about going to big school, Pete the child is eager to start the new adventure. It's his stuffed polar bear, Polo, who has trepidations about the change. Pete and his teacher, Mrs. Rose, reassure Polo each step of the way as they join other children—and their teddy bears—in their first day at school without Mom. Enjoy this gentle tale with children about to make the big move.



The Kissing Hand

by Audrey Penn
illustrations by Ruth E. Harper &
Nancy M. Leak
Child & Family Press
ISBN 0-87868-585-5
Now available in Spanish *Un Beso en Mi Mano*
ISBN 0-87868-822-6.

Everybody needs to be told that they're loved—sometimes when their loved one isn't available—and Chester Raccoon's mom has the perfect solution: She opens Chester's hand and plants a kiss right in the middle of his palm with the admonition, "whenever you feel lonely and need a little loving from home, just press your hand to your cheek and think, 'Mommy loves you. Mommy loves you.'" Even without the gentle story about Chester's going to school, the poignant illustrations share the love and reassurance inherent in *The Kissing Hand*.



Meet the Barkers

by Tomie dePaola
Putnam
ISBN 0-399-23708-9

Although they're twins, Moffat and Morgan have totally different personalities—and different approaches to school. Moffie is fiercely competitive, always on time, and eager to show off her knowledge. Morgie, on the other hand, is a dreamer, immersed in his study of dinosaurs but always ready to make friends. As the twins experience kindergarten, both of them soon learn that the traits of the other offer something positive in making the grade. There are some real life lessons to be learned in this dog-gone adventure!

Making the move to kindergarten is often a frightening time for children although they frequently don't articulate their fears. These books address some of the common concerns preschoolers have about the big move.



Cool Melons Turn to Frogs!

by Matthew Gollub
illustrations by Kazuko G. Stone
Lee & Low Books, Inc.
ISBN 1-880000-71-7

If you like to get value for your money, this slim volume really packs it in! First there's the beautiful haiku poetry that speaks so directly to young children, evoking images they'll love to share. Then there's the touching story of Issa, the beloved 18TH century Japanese poet who wrote many of the poems when he was just a boy. Add the sparse, delicate watercolor and colored pencil illustrations, and the book springs to life in front of you! But, wait, there's more: Each poem is written in Japanese along the margins of the pages. And to help with questions, there are background notes about Japanese customs.



My Dear Noel

by Jane Johnson
Dial
ISBN 0-8037-2050-5

Using the picture letters that Beatrix Potter wrote to young Noel Moore while he was ill with polio, Johnson reveals the touching story about the inception of Peter Rabbit. Exquisite pen-and-ink and watercolor illustrations portray upper class Victorian family life, offering children opportunities to compare their lifestyles with that of the Moores. No one will ever read Potter's beloved stories in quite the same way after this look at how her literary career began.



Rosie the Riveter

by Catherine Lukas
illustrations by Richard Torrey
Little Simon
ISBN 0-689-83368-7

It's never too late to start talking about women's history, and this is a delightful beginning. Join Zach as he takes Maya and Sam back in time to visit with women who stepped into traditional men's roles during World War II. Little folks will enjoy meeting the women who first broke through the glass ceiling.



Days of Knights & Damsels

ISBN 1-55652-291-6

Classical Kids

ISBN 1-55652-290-8
both by Laurie Carlson
Chicago Review Press

Who'd have ever thought ancient history could be so much fun! These magnificent activity guides offer costume ideas, recipes, art projects—and wonderful information about times of long ago. There's plenty of inspiration to keep children occupied for weeks, and the adults who work with them will be fascinated too. Although these will be indispensable when school age kids join your program, there's plenty for little ones too.



You Forgot Your Skirt, Amelia Bloomer!

by Shana Corey
illustrations by Chesley McLaren
Scholastic Press
ISBN 0-459-07819-9

Children will giggle with delight as they hear this self-proclaimed “very improper story” about how dress evolved during the women’s movement which began in Seneca Falls, New York in the 1840s. With whimsical drawings and words that tickle the imagination, history comes alive while youngsters see how lucky we are to be living today.



Children of Long Ago

poems by
Lessie Jones Little
pictures by
Jan Spivey Gilchrist
introduction by Elosie Greenfield
Lee and Low Books
ISBN 1-58430-008-6

Lessie Jones Little remembers the good days of her not-always-happy childhood in these gentle poems beautifully illustrated in pastels soft as imagination. Today’s children will have questions galore—about rickrack braid, chores, and staying alone—and these questions will prompt history lessons about a time gone by. The words and pictures may well spark creativity in your children.



Leonardo and the Flying Boy

by Laurence Anholt
ISBN 07641-5225-4

Suzette and the Puppy

by Joan Sweeney
illustrations by Jennifer Heyd Wharton
Barron’s
ISBN 0-7641-5294-7

Children love to hear stories about real people, and Leonardo di Vinci and Mary Cassatt are featured in these two offerings. This series of artist biographies from Barron’s is as informative for adults as for children, and everyone will enjoy them. Both books feature pictures by the famous artists and tell “the rest of the story” of one of their well-known paintings.



Sister Anne’s Hands

by Marybeth Lorbiecki
illustrations by K. Wendy Popp
Puffin Books
ISBN 0-14-056534-5

A motivated teacher, one who makes learning fun—everybody would jump at that chance for their children wouldn’t they? But when it’s the early 1960s and the new teacher in the Catholic school is African American, the quality of her teaching and the rapport she builds with her young charges isn’t necessarily what some folks figure is important. Sister Anne works through her hurt at a cruel joke and continues her inspirational teaching, making a real difference in the lives of her second graders, particularly the narrator, Anna Zabrocky. Children and adults alike will be touched by this poignant portrayal of the reality of racism.

Ask open-ended questions to get children thinking about what they read and see.

- Why didn’t Suzette’s parents just take a picture of her?
- How do you think Beatrix Potter might write to Noel today?
- Girls, what would it be like to have to wear long skirts all the time?
- Boys, what would you think about wearing panty hose?



National Gallery of Art Activity Book

Maura A. Clarkin
Harry N. Abrams, Inc.
ISBN 0-8109-2595-8

This book helps teachers (and parents) use visual art in virtually every area of curriculum—math, history, politics, science, sports, clothing, geography—and it helps children learn how to think about what they see and experience. There are twenty-five activities, many of which can be modified for very small children, all beautifully illustrated with paintings from the National Art Gallery in Washington DC.



First Meals

by Annabel Karmel
DK Ink
ISBN 0-7894-4177-2

Subtitled “Fast, healthy and fun foods to tempt infants and toddlers—from baby’s first foods to favorite family feasts,” this cookbook may just entice you back into the kitchen. Beautiful illustrations of the recipes prove why presentation is so vital to good eating. There are sections for each phase of a young child’s dining—from infant to preschool—including tips for packing lunches and cooking with children. In addition to ingredients, and cooking/preparation time, each recipe includes nutritional information and indicates whether or not it’s suitable for freezing.



Creative Fingerplays & Action Rhymes

by Jeff Defty
illustrations by
Ellen Kae Hester
Oryx Press
ISBN 0-89774-790-7

Children’s librarian and former preschool teacher Jeff Defty has compiled an absolute gold mine of games, rhymes, and fingerplays for young children. He describes how the action should happen, how to modify actions for children with special needs, and how the fingerplays reinforce learning. A bibliography of audiovisual supplements is included. Perhaps the richest resource is a subject and first line index to fingerplays and action rhymes which makes up nearly half the book. Be sure to read the “How to Use Indexes” page—you’ll be lost without it. With this book on your shelves, you’ll look forward to rainy days!



Teaching with Folk Stories of the Hmong:

An Activity Book
by Dia Cha & Norma J. Livo
Libraries Unlimited, Inc.
ISBN 1-56308-668-9

Western North Carolina has a large population of Hmong people, immigrants from Laos and North Vietnam. Although this book is intended for teachers of older children, the information about the Hmong people is useful to anyone seeking to extend their appreciation of cultural diversity. Many of the stories and activities could be modified for very young children.



Games to Play with Babies

ISBN 0-87659-162-4

...with Toddlers

ISBN 0-87659-163-2

...with Two Year Olds

ISBN 0-87629-169-1

More...with Toddlers

ISBN 0-87629-178-0

by Jackie Silberg

Gryphon House

review by Sherra Vance

This delightful set of game books will make you the hands-down favorite of the pre-three set! Because each book is divided by three-month age sections, it's always easy to find something new and age appropriate to amuse your charges. There's little expense or preparation involved in these games; and, materials are generally things you'll have on hand—balls, blocks, containers, toys. Games fit easily into family routines and lifestyles, so parents will enjoy these ideas. A note at the bottom of the page tells what skill the child is learning. The table of contents provides topics for the games and a breakdown of age groups and specific skills addressed. These easy-to-read-and-follow games are fun for children and caregivers alike! *More Games to Play with Toddlers* won a prestigious Publisher's Marketing Association Gold Medal.

The Portfolio Book

A Step-by-Step Guide for Teachers

by Elizabeth F. Shores & Cathy Grace

Gryphon House

ISBN 0-87659-194-2

review by Valerie Jarvis



This book provides a relatively simple step-by-step process for using a portfolio assessment in everyday teaching practices. Specifically, the authors discuss a ten-step portfolio process that begins establishing a portfolio policy. From there, they discuss collecting children's authentic work samples, using learning logs, interviewing children, taking systematic anecdotal records, preparing reports, holding conferences with families, and preparing portfolios for transition. The book's ten-step portfolio process supports child-centered learning, rich family involvement, and evaluation and improvement of teaching practices. This easy-to-read book is both comprehensive and feasible for preschool and primary teachers.

Tell It Again!

by Shirley Raines & Rebecca Isbell

Gryphon House

ISBN 0-87659-200-0

If you really want to be a good storyteller, there's no place better to practice than with young children—and there's no one better to help you get started than these veteran storytellers. This book is a virtual primer for the novice: Included with some excellent stories are literal directions for telling them, tips on techniques and props, related activities, examples of open-ended questions, and margin notes. The authors even explain how to make story cards to help you through your first performance, making this book a must for new storytellers. Another advantage to the book is its organization by area of use, "hearing music everywhere" or "using your wits" and "be yourself."



You've stretched the children's minds—and your resources. These books offer suggestions that will engage children in learning through play.



Partnerships for Inclusion

is a North Carolina technical assistance project that promotes the inclusion of young children with disabilities, birth through five years, and their families in all aspects of community life. With offices in the western, central, and eastern regions of the state, project staff work closely with a variety of individuals and groups.

Typically these include

- public schools
- child care and preschool programs
- early intervention agencies
- resource and referral agencies
- Smart Start partnerships
- community colleges
- interagency councils
- family support organizations.

Funded by the Public Schools of North Carolina (Part B, Section 619) and the Department of Health and Human Services (Part C and Child Care Development Block Grant), PFI offers an array of services, including

- consultation
- training
- assistance in strategic planning and program evaluation
- resource linking
- a magazine that highlights issues and programs in early childhood inclusion.

The project also assists state agencies to develop policy and program initiatives that facilitate full community integration of children with disabilities and their families.

All Together Now!

Published three times a year, *All Together Now!* is a magazine that brings its readers quality information about early childhood experiences for all children—those with and without disabilities. Timely articles provide updates on key concepts integral to the early care and education of children ages birth through five years. A comprehensive training calendar describes opportunities for professional licensure credit. Special features in each issue highlight innovative programs and practices. *All Together Now!* is funded collaboratively by agencies involved directly in services to young children and their families.