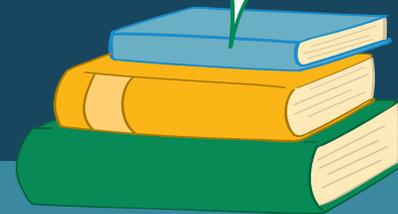


BRIGHT HORIZONS Growing Readers Review

JUNE
2020



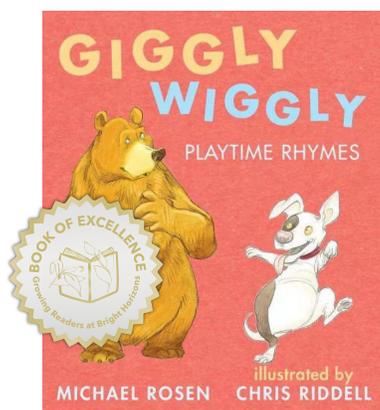
Books of Excellence and Notable books are selected annually by a panel of Bright Horizons early childhood experts and represent some of the best new writing in children's literature.

Book of Excellence

INFANT AND TODDLER

Giggly Wiggly Playtime Rhymes

Written by Michael Rosen; Illustrated by Chris Riddell



Exuberant, joyful, and silly, this book of poems for little ones should be read again and again. Rosen brilliantly plays with language, rhyme, and alliteration. Chris Riddell's whimsical illustrations add humor and emotion.

Storytelling Tips

Poetry and rhymes are best appreciated in small doses. Try reading one poem a day, over breakfast or at bedtime. Point out the illustrations. Exaggerate the words or even sing them. Once you memorize a few, you can repeat them together anytime.

Extend the Learning

- ▶ Encourage your child to act out some of the poems, such as “Boing!” “Curl up like a small cat and POUNCE! Become bigger and bigger until you’re a lion.”
- ▶ Read “Don’t Squash.” Offer your child some squishy-squashy materials, such as play dough, sand, or bubble wrap. What does it feel like to squish it in your fingers? How about squishing it with your toes?
- ▶ Share “Tippy-Tappy,” and then try to come up with your own nonsense words. Start out by saying your child’s name, e.g., Mylie, Wylie, Sylie. Use objects in your child’s room, e.g., truck, wuck, muck, bruck.
- ▶ Read “Hello Good-Bye,” then replace the names in the poem with the names of family members, pets, and friends.

We are proud to partner with The Book Vine for Children on our Growing Readers book selections. [Click here](#) to order these books and more.

Notable Books

Other great books we recommend.

Snap a photo to link to the *Growing Readers* website for more book recommendations.



INFANT & TODDLER

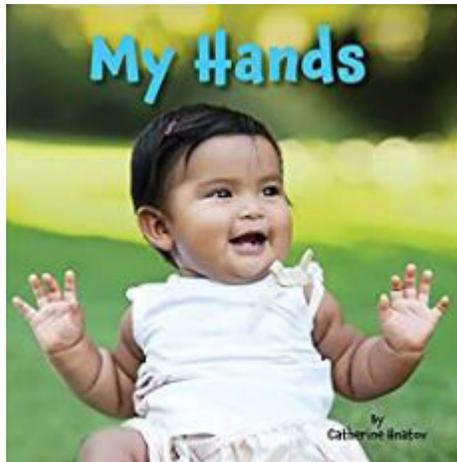
My Hands

Written by Catherine Hnatov

A charming photo book for the youngest reader, all about hands and the wonderful things they can do.

Storytelling Tips

Read the story slowly, lingering over each page. Point out and describe the photos, e.g., “Look, he’s swinging,” or “Ooh, he’s being so gentle with the puppy.”



Extend the Learning

- ▶ Make a drum from an empty oatmeal container, kitchen storage containers, or even a pot. Offer your child a spoon to beat the drum.
- ▶ Make sidewalk chalk designs. Trace your child’s outline on the sidewalk. Add details, such as hair and facial features. Write cheery notes on your sidewalk for neighbors to enjoy.
- ▶ Play peek-a-boo. Sit on the floor across from your child. Gently roll a ball back and forth to each other.
- ▶ Teach your child the song, “[Clap, Clap, Clap Your Hands Together.](#)”

PRESCHOOL

Leyla

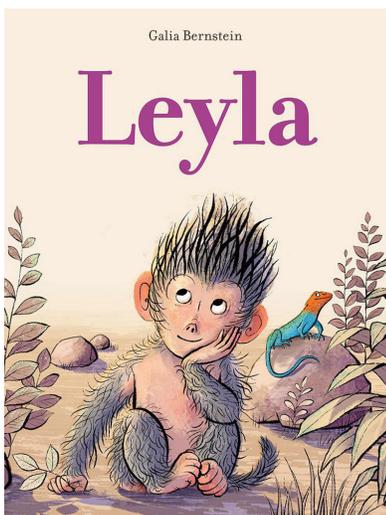
Written and Illustrated by Galia Bernstein

Leyla has a big, loving, loud family. They like to hug her. They like to kiss her. But sometimes it's all too much. When Leyla runs away, she meets a lizard who teaches her to "sit perfectly still, feel the sun on your skin...and think of nothing at all."

Storytelling Tips

For most adults, one reading of a story is enough, but children love to read good books over and over again. Repeated readings allow them to master the plot, characters, and vocabulary. This practice is also an opportunity for you to point out different aspects of the text. Each time you read the story, focus on something different:

- ▶ Casually point out how the words on the page run from left to right and top to bottom (print awareness).
- ▶ Count the aunts and cousins. Are there really nine aunts and twenty-three cousins?
- ▶ Make "I wonder" statements and listen to your child's ideas. "I wonder why some of the pages have a lot of color and some have hardly any." "I wonder why the book designer made the words "EEEEEEPPPP!!!" and "OUCH" different than the other type." "I wonder what it would feel like to live in such a big family."
- ▶ Ask your child thoughtful, open-ended questions about the story. "What would you do if you were Leyla?" "Have you ever felt lonely, homesick, or overwhelmed by too much attention?" "What's your favorite thing to do when you need some peace and quiet?"



Extend the Learning

- ▶ Notice the illustrations, which look like pen and watercolor (although they were actually done digitally). Offer paper, ink pens, and watercolor. Show your child how to draw a picture with pencil, trace it with pen, and add details with watercolor paint. Or, try using a digital app to make art.
- ▶ Offer a measuring tape and let your child measure things around the house. Give her a clipboard and some paper or a journal to record her measurements. Record daily outdoor temperatures too.
- ▶ Make simple puppets out of cardstock and craft sticks so your child can retell the story. Be sure to include Leyla, the lizard, and some of her family members. Let your child draw the illustrations if she chooses.

SCHOOL-AGE (K-2)

Superpower Dogs

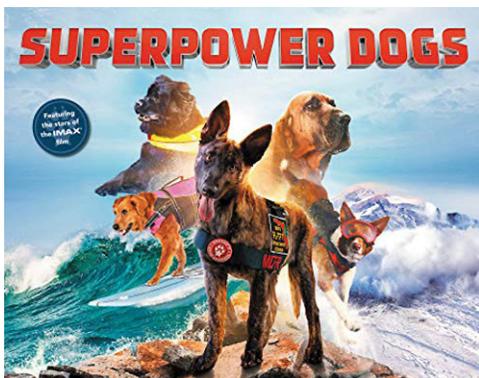
Written by Taran, George, Daniel, and Dominic; photographs by Danny Wilcox Frazier

A fascinating look at working dogs and their human trainers. From rescuing people trapped by earthquakes and avalanches to protecting endangered animals from poachers, these dogs are sure to inspire. Vivid full-page photos.

Storytelling Tips

As children begin reading on their own, it's tempting to stop reading aloud to them, but this time together is as important as ever. Create a routine for sharing stories together—maybe it's bedtime, afternoon tea, or even over breakfast.

Look at the images carefully. What shapes and details do you notice? Look at the text too. Point out the layout, including the infographics. Talk with your child about fiction and nonfiction books. Nonfiction books are often formatted differently than fiction ones to draw attention to facts and information.



Extend the Learning

- ▶ Fold and staple some papers together to make a book. Let your child fill the book with information on various dog breeds.
- ▶ Get out a map or globe. Locate the places described in the book.
- ▶ Make a chart or graph detailing each dog's name, its breed, its location, and its owner's name.
- ▶ If you have a dog, talk about its potential superpowers. If not, discuss the kind of dog you'd like to own. What superpower would your child choose for himself?

SCHOOL-AGE (GR. 4-6)

New Kid

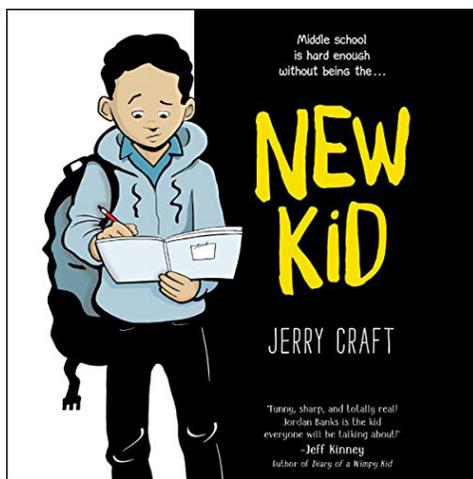
Written and Illustrated by Jerry Craft

Jordan wants to go to art school, but his parents send him to an upscale private school instead. He tries to fit in, but middle school is rough. Kids will relate to the story's message and enjoy this graphic novel's illustrations.

Storytelling Tips

Your child will probably read this book independently, but you can still have great discussions. Here are a few literary conversation starters to try:

- ▶ Did you like the character of Jordan Banks? Who did he remind you of?
- ▶ What surprised you about the story?
- ▶ Are there various groups at your school? Do the groups sit separately in the cafeteria like they did in the story?
- ▶ What do you relate to in the story? What aspects are different than your life? What's the best thing about your school? What's something that is hard?



Extend the Learning

- ▶ Encourage your child to try making his own comic strip. What would it be about? Who would be the main character?
- ▶ Start a book club (virtual or in-person) with friends.