

BRIGHT HORIZONS Growing Readers Review

August
2021

20th Anniversary

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

NEW!

Growing Readers
Book Club videos!
See page 2
for further details.

INFANT & TODDLER

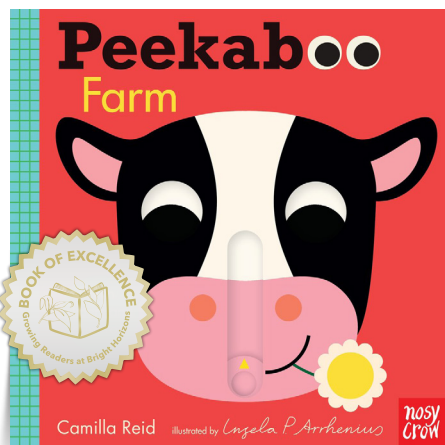
Peekaboo Farm

Written by **Camilla Reid**; Illustrated by **Ingela P. Arrhenius**

Graphic designer Ingela Arrhenius brings her charming and recognizable style to this clever introduction to farm animals. Babies and toddlers will love the push/pull features on each page.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Go at your child's pace.** Infants and toddlers may linger over a page or be ready to move on quickly. Adapt your reading to your child's interest.
- ▶ **Point out the sliders.** Show your child how to gently move them up and down and side to side.
- ▶ **Build language.** Point to the farm animals and label them for your child. As your child begins to say words independently, expand on what they say, e.g., "Yes, that's a cow. It says 'moo.' It gives us milk. Can you find the horse?" This technique, known as "serve and return," is a great way to nurture your relationship and your child's language development.



Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Explore new books.** Corral a bunch of farm books at your local library. Try classic titles such as "Big Red Barn" by Margaret Wise Brown or check out some newer titles like July's Growing Readers infant/toddler selection, "The Farm" by Sara Brezzi.
- ▶ **Encourage play.** Offer farm animal toys and show your child how to play with them, e.g., "Here's the horse. He's going to eat some hay. Now it's nighttime. He's going to the barn to sleep."

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

Peekaboo Apple

Written by **Camilla Reid**; Illustrated by **Ingela P. Arrhenius**

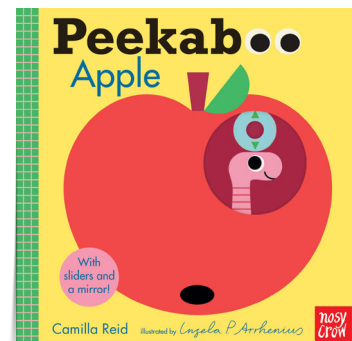
Ingela Arrhenius offers another book in her charming “Peekaboo” series. This one features common items such as an apple, duck, snail, and butterfly, and has push-pull sliders and a mirror.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Offer a book handling lesson.** Show your child how to hold the book. “See, here’s the front of the book. We turn the pages gently like this. When we’re done, we put the book on the shelf.”
- ▶ **Describe what you see.** Modeling rich language helps build infants’ and toddlers’ vocabulary. Point out the objects on each page. Label and briefly describe them. Encourage your child to repeat the words or teach a sign for the words.

Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Make connections with life.** Point out real-life objects and connect them to the book, e.g., “Remember the apple in the book we read? We’re having apples for snack today.”
- ▶ **Introduce rhyming words.** Repeat the words that rhyme in the story, e.g., log, dog, who, you. Introduce other words that rhyme with log or who.



NEW!

Don't miss this month's riveting video episode of the Growing Readers Book Club! Become Mr. Nate's co-researchers as you and your child are introduced to high-quality children's books along with ideas to explore, create, and investigate further!

Growing Readers
Book Club

Join Mr. Nate as he discusses reading to infants and toddlers featuring the book “Peekaboo Farm” by Camilla Reid. Learn about the value of playfully engaging in a game of peekaboo—both within the pages of this charmingly interactive book and with people and objects nearby.



[Watch the video here!](#)

PRESCHOOL

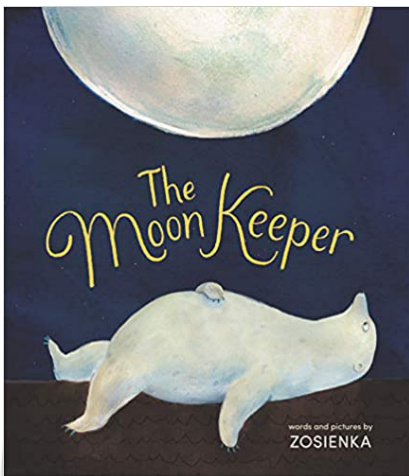
The Moon Keeper

Written and Illustrated by Zosienka

Emile is charged with taking care of the moon, but what is he doing wrong? The moon gets smaller and smaller and then disappears. Lovely illustrations and a gentle story about friendship and change will appeal to preschoolers.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Inspect the artwork.** Zosienka's illustrations are interesting and engaging. Look at the end papers and the artwork throughout. Ask questions. "What animals do you think these are?" "Why did Emile choose the things he did for looking after the moon?" "What would you choose if this was your job?"
- ▶ **Become an explorer.** Discuss Emile's efforts. He worked really hard to take care of the moon, showing persistence and resilience. He observed the moon each night and documented the changes he saw by drawing them. Persistence and resilience, and the practices of observation and documentation are all important parts of learning.



Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Paint with a limited palette.** Zosienka uses only shades of blue, red, black, and brown in her artwork (with the exception of the green bird). Offer your child these colors and demonstrate how to make different shades and tones, perhaps with the addition of black or white.
- ▶ **Learn about the moon.** Study the moon over several weeks, keeping a daily log of its changes. Read a book about the moon to learn more about its phases.

SCHOOL-AGE (K-2)

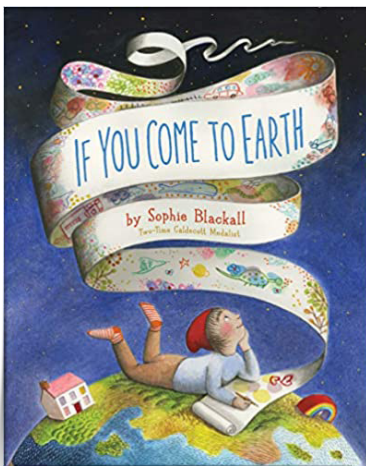
If You Come to Earth

Written and Illustrated by Sophie Blackall

What would you tell an alien who came to our planet? Two-time Caldecott Medal winner Sophie Blackall offers an answer with this exuberant and joyful book that celebrates the beauty of the earth, its creatures, and its people.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Find awe in each page.** Each page is packed with small details. Take time to explore and discuss them.
- ▶ **Read more than once.** This is the sort of book children can get lost in over long periods of time. Read and discuss it together and then set it somewhere accessible such as a coffee table. You'll likely find your child perusing it over and over again.
- ▶ **Ask questions.** "If You Come to Earth" handles complex and weighty topics with a sense of hope and wonder. Ask open-ended questions to spark a discussion, e.g., "What other things can you think of that are invisible?" "What do you think colors would be like if they were shapes and sounds?" or "What would you tell an alien about our planet?"



Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Jump into learning.** This book covers so many topics, such as space, weather, natural resources, diversity, families, conflict resolution, and much more. Use it as a springboard for diving into deeper learning.
- ▶ **Write a letter.** Encourage your child to write their own letter to an alien. What would it include?
- ▶ **Learn about the author.** Read the note at the end of the book from Sophie Blackall. She writes, "Right this minute, we are all here together on this beautiful planet. It's the only one we have, so we should take care of it. And each other. Don't you think?" Sophie Blackall sounds like a very special person. Read other books written by her or visit her website at www.sophieblackall.com to learn more.

SCHOOL-AGE (GRADES 3-6)

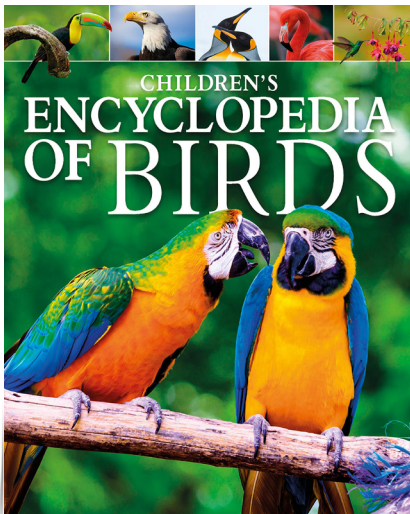
Children's Encyclopedia of Birds

Written by Claudia Martin

A lively and accessible first guide to birds, this comprehensive book starts with a section on various aspects of birds and their lives such as migration, finding a mate, egg laying, and flight, and moves on to different species of birds.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Offer some guidance.** Reference books like this one aren't meant to be read in one sitting, and they can be overwhelming to young readers. Show your child how the book is organized and how to use the table of contents and the index.
- ▶ **Make learning meaningful.** Tie this book to your real life. Use it to learn more about the birds in your backyard or neighborhood, or to learn about a specific exotic bird that lives far away.



Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Go on a bird walk.** After you can identify the birds living near you, take a clipboard and keep a tally of which ones you see at various times during the year. Join the Audubon Bird Count or find out about local birdwatching groups in your area.
- ▶ **Create habitat for birds.** Offer a helping hand to the feathered friends in your yard. Put out bird feeders and appropriate feed, provide a bird bath for water, or plant flowers to attract hummingbirds.