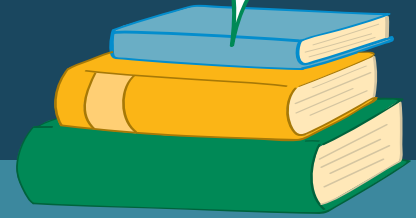


BRIGHT HORIZONS Growing Readers Review

Celebrating
20 Years

January
2022



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.

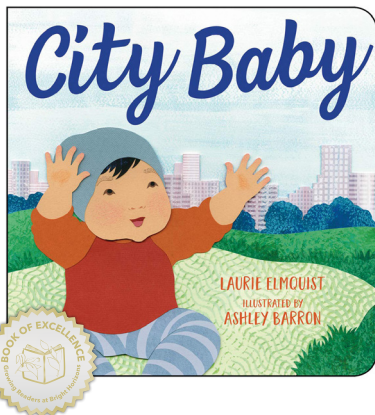
Book of Excellence

INFANT & TODDLER

NEW!

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

City Baby



Written by Laurie Elmquist; Illustrated by Ashley Barron

This book joyfully celebrates the everyday moments of a child and parent exploring their city.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Make connections.** As you read, connect the story to your child's life. "Look, this reminds me of when we saw the ducks at the park," or "Remember when we watched the workers building the sidewalk?"
- ▶ **Point out the illustrations.** Ashley Barron's illustrations contribute to the story's sense of emotional authenticity. The reader knows the mother and child share a deep, enriching bond. Notice also her use of dots, lines, and squiggles to add texture and interest.

Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Compare notes.** After reading this story, go for a walk in your neighborhood. What can you see that's similar? What's different?
- ▶ **Serve and return.** The parent in this story demonstrates the technique of serve and return, a simple communication technique that has been shown to nurture relationships, build children's cognitive skills and promote language development. Visit [Harvard's Center on the Developing Child](#) to learn more.

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.



PRESCHOOL

Shapes

Written by Shelley Rotner and Anne Woodhull; Photographs by Shelley Rotner

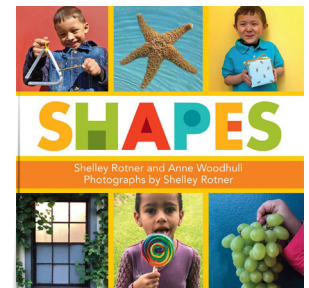
Vibrant, playful images of children and everyday objects make this book about shapes one that stands apart.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Share your enthusiasm.** This isn't your run-of-the-mill shapes book. The authors' love for children and learning is obvious, and the book feels happy and fun. Read it with that perspective.
- ▶ **Look carefully.** Each spread is full of color and interest. Slow down to catch all the small details, like the child holding a furry friend!

Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Notice shapes.** The authors point out the shapes of mundane items such as breakfast cereal. Pay attention to the shapes in your own world.
- ▶ **Chart the results.** Give your child a small notebook and make a graph to record the shapes you see around you. Which shapes are the most common? Which are the least common?
- ▶ **Make a collage.** Cut a few shapes out of construction paper. Have your child glue the shapes onto another piece of paper to make new objects or illustrations.



NEW!

Don't miss this month's riveting video episode of the Growing Readers Book Club! Become 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

This month's video features the book *Shapes* by Shelley Rotner and Anne Woodhull. Join Teacher Nate in discovering the many shapes found in our schools, communities, and homes by playing a shape scavenger hunt game!



[Watch the video here!](#)

SCHOOL-AGE (GRADES K-2)

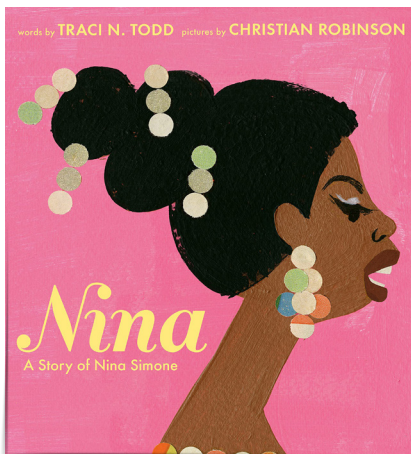
Nina: A Story of Nina Simone

Written by Traci N. Todd; Illustrated by Christian Robinson

Nina grew up playing jazz with her daddy and hymns with her mama. She later attended Julliard, school of performing arts, and played at Carnegie Hall. But her most significant achievement was her role in the Civil Rights Movement. *Nina* beautifully captures her inspiring life.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Offer some context.** Before you read the story, find an image of Nina online to share with your child and listen to a few of her songs.
- ▶ **Read your audience.** This book is lively and engaging, and it covers a lot of big ideas. Observe your child as you read. Slow down to answer questions, or even share the book over several readings instead of all at once.



Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Explore interests.** This book is packed with new ideas to investigate. Based on your child's interest, learn more about jazz, classical, and gospel music. Introduce the Civil Rights Movement or make biscuits together.
- ▶ **Make some art.** Christian Robinson's illustrations combine collage and paint. His style is whimsical and loose. Offer some art materials and make some art modeled after his work.
- ▶ **Learn More.** Visit the estate of [Nina Simone's website](#) to discover additional books for children and watch Nina's 1972 appearance on Sesame Street.