

1000

great books TO READ TOGETHER

PRESENTED BY THE EDMONTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



babies



toddlers



preschoolers



read. talk. play.

EARLY LITERACY AT EPL

This book belongs to:

The Edmonton Public Library is proud to present **100 Great Books to Read Together**, a celebration of great books that you can read with the young child in your life. This booklet also features a number of tips for fostering early literacy skills in children.

Early literacy is everything that children know about reading and writing *before* they can read and write. Studies show that the first three years of life have a direct impact on later development and learning and that children who enter school with strong early literacy skills will have more success, confidence and enjoyment in school.

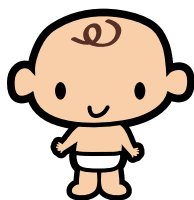
There are **six early literacy skills**:

- **Print Motivation** - Interest in and enjoyment of books
- **Vocabulary** - Knowing the names of things
- **Narrative Skill** - The ability to describe events, tell stories, and understand how stories work
- **Letter Knowledge** - Learning to name letters, knowing the sounds of letters, and finding letters everywhere
- **Print Awareness** - Noticing print, knowing that print has meaning, and knowing how to hold a book and follow words on the page
- **Phonological Awareness** - The ability to hear and play with the smaller sounds in words

Reading together is an excellent way to build all six early literacy skills. The titles in this booklist have been chosen by EPL Librarians. **The list is divided into three sections: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers.**

Titles are listed alphabetically according to the author's last name. Canadian titles are shown with a maple leaf. 

All titles are currently available from the Edmonton Public Library; if you can't find a book that is listed here, library staff would be happy to recommend an available title. Many authors and illustrators listed in this booklet also have other great books to check out.



BABIES

Snuggle up and start reading because it's never too early to start reading with your baby. These great books are perfect to share, even with newborns.

The Baby's Catalogue JANET AND ALLAN AHLBERG

Breakfasts, high chairs, books – this catalogue features everything that babies could need; share it with your child and see if anything catches his or her eye!

Moo Baa La La La! SANDRA BOYNTON

Sandra Boynton combines animal sounds with fun illustrations in this board book that is perfect for sharing with young animal lovers.

Goodnight Moon MARGARET WISE BROWN (Illustrated by Clement Hurd)

This is a classic bedtime story for a good reason: soothing rhyme for babies and rich illustrations for toddlers.

Peek-a-Zoo MARIE TORRES CIMARUSTI (Illustrated by Stephanie Peterson)

Who is hiding behind those hands? Lift the flaps and find out! Little ones will love playing peek-a-boo with these animals.

Kisses Kisses Baby-O!

SHEREE FITCH (Illustrated by Hilda Rose)

Canadian author Sheree Fitch has created a board book that encourages sharing both books and kisses with your baby throughout the day.

Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes

MEM FOX (Illustrated by Helen Oxenbury)

The illustrations of babies from all over the world are accompanied by a wonderful refrain that you can share with your own baby.

Black on White TANA HOBAN

Babies are born with developing vision, so the simple black pictures on a white background are perfect for your newborn's eyes.

Guess How Much I Love You? SAM MCBRATNEY (Illustrated by Anita Jeram)

No matter how hard the Little Nutbrown Hare tries to outdo his father's love, he discovers that his father will always love him more.

I Kissed the Baby! MARY MURPHY

All the animals are delighted about the brand new baby in the barnyard! The brightly coloured pictures on the black and white pages add to the excitement and are perfect for little eyes.

My Very First Mother Goose IONA OPIE (Illustrated by Rosemary Wells)

These rhymes are perfect stories to share with babies, and the illustrations in this edition make for a lovely introduction to Mother Goose.

Babies love picture books with black & white, high-contrast images & pictures of babies

Board books are thick and sturdy – perfect for curious babies to explore!



did you know...

Playing with blocks or balls makes it easier for children to recognize the round and square shapes in letters.



Read Me a Book BARBARA REID



In this celebration of reading, Barbara Reid has created a gentle, rhythmic story that is perfect for sharing with babies and children of all ages.



Sing a Song of Mother Goose

BARBARA REID



The Mother Goose rhymes in this book are accompanied by Reid's incredibly detailed Plasticine illustrations for you and your baby to explore.



Welcome Song for Baby RICHARD VAN CAMP



Babies love to look at pictures of faces, and this board book by Aboriginal author Richard Van Camp has lots of photographs of faces to accompany his welcoming words.



Read to Your Bunny ROSEMARY WELLS

A lovely little story that emphasizes one of the best reasons why parents should read with their children: so that one day they can read to you.



Piggies DON AND AUDREY WOOD

(Illustrated by Don Wood)

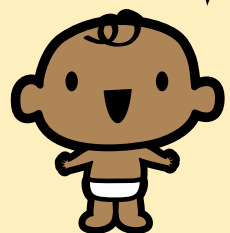
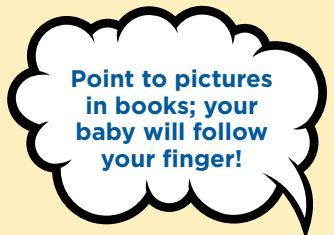
After reading this bedtime story by Don and Audrey Wood, you might never look at your fingers the same way again!

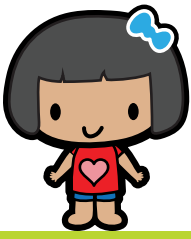
At _____ months old...

My favourite **book** is

My favourite **song** is

My favourite **game** is





TODDLERS

Toddlers respond to books with repeated words, bright colours, and pictures of things that they recognize, such as animals or household objects.

Anno's Counting Book MITSUMASA ANNO

Count your way through the seasons as they change from spring through summer, fall, and winter.

Ten, Nine, Eight MOLLY BANG

In this warm and soothing bedtime story, parents and children can count backwards from ten as they prepare to say goodnight.

Machines at Work BYRON BARTON

Many different machines are needed to tear down a building, and this book has colourful pictures of all those machines. A great book for children who like big trucks and other vehicles.

Little Gorilla RUTH BORNSTEIN

A touching story about Little Gorilla, a baby animal who is loved by his mother, his father, and all of the other animals in the jungle.

The Snowman RAYMOND BRIGGS

When this snowman comes to life, he takes a young boy on an unforgettable trip.

Dear Zoo ROD CAMPBELL

A young child's request for a pet turns into a steady stream of parcels from the zoo - will the right pet ever show up?

The Very Hungry Caterpillar ERIC CARLE

Follow the very hungry caterpillar as he eats his way through a lot of food - and the book!

Freight Train DONALD CREWS

Your child will enjoy watching this colourful freight train move faster and faster through the countryside until it becomes a big blur.

Tomie dePaola's Favorite Nursery Tales TOMIE DEPAOLA

The Three Little Pigs, and *The Three Billy-Goats Gruff*, and *The Owl and the Pussycat* are among the stories collected in this volume of Nursery Tales.

Llama Llama Red Pajama ANNA DEWDNEY

Filled with llama drama, this story is reassuring for children who are scared to go to bed or of being separated from their parents.

Go Away, Big Green Monster! ED EMBERLEY

Go away, monster! This book engages children by building anticipation with the slow appearance of a monster - and then provides them with a way to get rid of him!

Books with flaps or pop-ups can make reading time feel like playtime!



Read favourite books **again and again!** Repetition deepens understanding.



try this...

Clap, drum, and march along with poems! Finding the rhythm helps break bigger words down into smaller parts.

Mama Cat Has Three Kittens DENISE FLEMING

Mama Cat has three kittens: Fluffy, Skinny, and Boris. While she's teaching Fluffy and Skinny new skills, all Boris wants to do is nap! Will Boris ever learn how to be a cat?

Millions of Cats WANDA GAG

Hundreds of cats, thousands of cats, millions and billions and trillions of cats! When all of these cats follow an old farmer home, how will the farmer and his wife decide which one to keep?

Birds

KEVIN HENKES (Illustrated by Laura Dronzek)

This colourful story about the birds that a young girl can see from her bedroom window will have you and your child noticing vibrant colours wherever you go.

Where's Spot? ERIC HILL

Spot is hiding! Encourage your children to lift up the flaps to see if they can find him.

Rosie's Walk PAT HUTCHINS

The words in this book tell the story of a hen's pleasant walk around the farmyard, but the pictures tell the *real* story!

Sisters & Brothers: Sibling Relationships in the Animal World STEVE JENKINS AND ROBIN PAGE

Learn fun facts about brothers and sisters in the animal world! Talk about the pictures with younger kids and as they get older, read and discuss the interesting facts together.

Harold and the Purple Crayon

CROCKETT JOHNSON

This simple story about the power of art and imagination has been a favourite of children and parents since it was first published in 1955.

The Snowy Day EZRA JACK KEATS

A young boy's excitement over a big snowfall creates a story to which children in Edmonton can relate!

Flora McDonnell's ABC FLORA MCDONNELL

What starts with the letter A? What about B? These big, colorful illustrations will have you hooked all the way to the letter Z!

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?

BILL MARTIN JR. (Illustrated by Eric Carle)

Colours and animals come together in this well-loved tale illustrated by Eric Carle.

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom BILL MARTIN, JR. AND JOHN ARCHAMBAULT (Illustrated by Lois Ehlert)

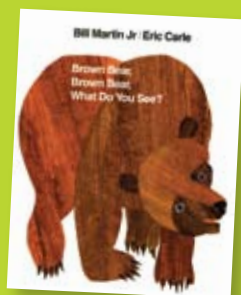
All the letters of the alphabet are clamouring to get to the top of the coconut tree, but will there be enough room? Watch out for falling letters!

No, David! DAVID SHANNON

When all David hears is 'No,' he starts to wonder if his mom can say anything else! A wonderful book to reassure children that getting upset doesn't mean you stop loving.

Reading together every day is a great way to make books a part of your family's routine!

Point out letters whenever you see them, especially the letters in a child's name.



Puppet Shows are a fun way to develop early literacy skills!



try this...

Run your finger along the words as you read to show your child what words look like and that they have meaning.



Red is Best



KATHY STINSON (Illustrated by Robin Baird Lewis)

Cup, boots, barrettes: according to one little girl, red makes everything better.

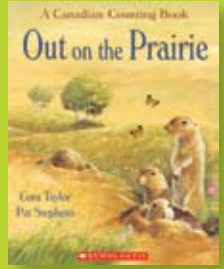


Out on the Prairie: A Canadian Counting Book



CORA TAYLOR (Illustrated by Pat Stephens)

Count along with the animals in this Canadian version of the counting rhyme "Over in the Meadow."



Mouse Paint

ELLEN STOLL WALSH

Big jars of red, yellow, and blue paint open up a whole world of colourful opportunities for three white mice.



Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale

MO WILLEMS

When Trixie and her dad visit the Laundromat, they leave one very important thing behind! How will Trixie tell her dad what has happened when she can't even talk?



The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry, and the Big Hungry Bear

DON AND AUDREY WOOD (Illustrated by Don Wood)

The Little Mouse is excited about finding a red ripe strawberry - until he hears about the Big Hungry Bear! With a little help from the reader, the mouse just might find a way to keep the delicious fruit out of the Bear's hands!



How do Dinosaurs Say Good Night?

JANE YOLEN (Illustrated by Mark Teague)

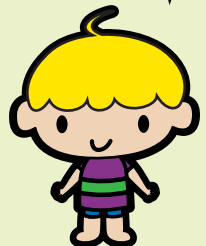
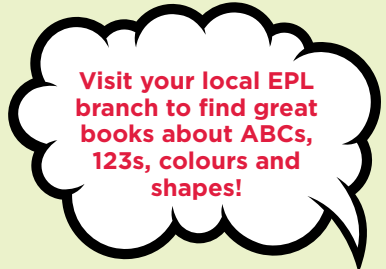
In the first of Jane Yolen's successful *How do Dinosaurs...* series, children will learn all about the bedtime habits of dinosaurs. A great book to share with little ones who are reluctant to go to bed.

At _____ years old...

My favourite **book** is

My favourite **song** is

My favourite **game** is



PRESCHOOLERS



Preschoolers love books with longer plots, bigger words, and more characters. Feed their imaginations by reading and discussing these great books together.

Each Peach Pear Plum JANET AND ALLAN AHLBERG

Favourite characters like Tom Thumb, Mother Hubbard, and a Wicked Witch all come together in this clever twist on nursery rhymes.

Watch Out! Big Bro's Coming JEZ ALBOROUGH

All of the forest creatures are scared when they hear about the arrival of a big animal, but they just might be in for a big surprise!

Stanley's Party

LINDA BAILEY (Illustrated by Bill Slavin)

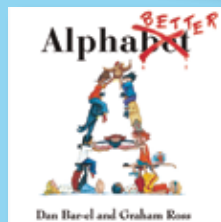
Stanley, a dog in an empty house, enjoys exploring his freedom, but when he decides to throw a party, has he finally gone too far? Children will delight in his naughty behavior!



Alphabetter

DAN BAR-EL (Illustrations by Graham Ross)

More than just an alphabet book, this great tale also shows the importance of sharing and cooperation.



A Visitor for Bear

BONNY BECKER
(Illustrated by Kady MacDonalD Denton)

Bear wants to make his breakfast in peace, but he keeps being disturbed by a persistent mouse!

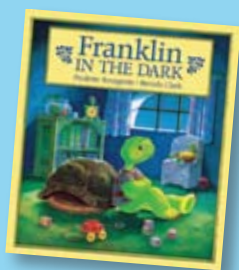
Madeline LUDWIG BEMELMANS

Madeline is the youngest and smallest girl at the Paris orphanage where she lives, but she makes up for her size with her spirit. Not even getting sick can get her down!

Franklin in the Dark

PAULETTE BOURGEOIS (Illustrated by Brenda Clark)

Franklin is a turtle who is afraid of the dark; he doesn't even want to go inside his shell! But when he discovers that other animals have fears, too, he realizes that he is not alone.



The Mitten JAN BRETT

In this retelling of a Ukrainian folktale, a forgotten white mitten makes a nice, warm home for many woodland creatures including a mole, a rabbit, and a badger. When bigger and bigger animals try to fit in, will the mitten be able to hold them all?

My Brother ANTHONY BROWNE

This brother is super cool: he is a great jumper, he has read hundreds of books, and he can draw anything! A wonderful story about the admiration that siblings can have for one another.

Mr. Gumpy's Outing JOHN BURNINGHAM

It's a perfect day for a boat ride! But when Mr. Gumpy is joined by a cat, a dog, a pig, and more, will his boat be able to hold them all?



why not...

Ask children lots of questions, and then give them time to organize their thoughts and come up with an answer.



Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel VIRGINIA LEE BURTON

When the town of Popperville has a big construction project, there is only one man for the job: Mike Mulligan and his steam shovel, Mary Anne.



The Hockey Sweater



ROCH CARRIER (Illustrated by Sheldon Cohen)

A young boy expecting a Montreal Canadiens hockey jersey to arrive from the Eaton's mail order catalogue is disappointed by a mix up.

For children who are ready for a longer story and discussing more complex themes, try reading this snapshot of rural Quebecois life in the 1940s. Truly a Canadian classic!



The Princess and the Pea in Miniature

LAUREN CHILD (photographed by Polly Borland)

This Hans Christian Andersen story gets a visual update from author and illustrator Lauren Child. A great way to discover – or re-discover – a classic fairytale.



Are You My Mother? P.D. EASTMAN

A small baby bird is born, but his mother is nowhere to be seen! Follow along as this brave baby bird sets out on a journey to find his mother and bring her home.



Olivia IAN FALCONER

Olivia loves ballet, art, and dressing up, and she never runs out of energy. Black, white, and red illustrations accompany this charming story of a precocious little pig.



Bark, George JULES FEIFFER

George doesn't bark – he moos, oinks, and quacks! Will the doctor be able to find out what's wrong with him or will he have to make these strange sounds forever?



Where is the Green Sheep? MEM FOX

(illustrated by Judy Horacek)

There are lots of colourful, interesting sheep in this engaging book by Mem Fox, but keep an eye out for the missing green sheep!



Corduroy DON FREEMAN

Corduroy, a toy bear in a department store, is convinced that nobody wants him because of his missing button. Join him as he goes an adventure to find a new one.



Stella, Queen of the Snow



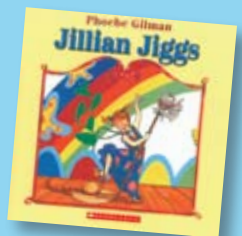
It's Sam's first snowfall and he has so many questions; it's a good thing he has his big sister Stella to give him all the answers! Join these two siblings as they marvel at the wonders of winter.



Jillian Jiggs PHOEBE GILMAN



Jillian would rather play with her friends than clean up her room, and that does not make her mom happy. Can she figure out a way to do both?





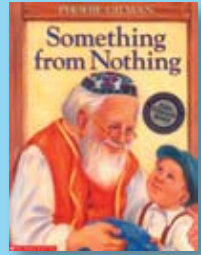
did you know...

Reading picture books helps a child learn how a story is structured. Can you find the beginning, middle, and end?



Something from Nothing PHOEBE GILMAN

In this richly illustrated version of a Jewish folktale, Joseph's grandfather can turn a blanket into just about anything!



Drumheller Dinosaur Dance

ROBERT HEIDBREDER

(Illustrated by Bill Slavin and Esperança Melo)

You can learn a lot about dinosaurs in this rhyming story with a great rhythm - including what dinosaurs do after you go to sleep!



See Saw Saskatchewan

ROBERT HEIDBREDER (Illustrated by Scot Ritchie)

This collection of Canadian rhymes has something for someone in every province and territory - there's even a poem just about Edmonton!



Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse KEVIN HENKES

Lilly is full of energy and has lots of imagination, but when her teacher takes away her purple plastic purse she does not feel so happy!



Bread and Jam for Frances

RUSSELL HOBAN (Illustrated by Lillian Hoban)

Frances is determined to eat bread and jam - and only bread and jam. But will getting her own way be as delicious as she thinks it is?



The Seals on the Bus

LENNY HORT (Illustrated by G. Brian Karas)

Seals, tigers, geese, and more! This is one bus that is anything but quiet!



Mama, Do You Love Me?

BARBARA M. JOOSSE (Illustrated by Barbara Lavallee)

This lovely story features a young girl who wants to know how much her mother loves her and a mother who reassures her daughter that she could never stop loving her.



The Carrot Seed RUTH KRAUSS (Illustrated by Crockett Johnson)

When a little boy plants a carrot seed, everyone tells him it that it won't grow, but he is convinced that it will. A wonderfully gentle story about strength and determination.



Alligator Pie

DENNIS LEE (Illustrated by Frank Newfeld)

Alligator pie, alligator stew, and alligator soup are just the beginning in this great book of Canadian poems and rhymes.



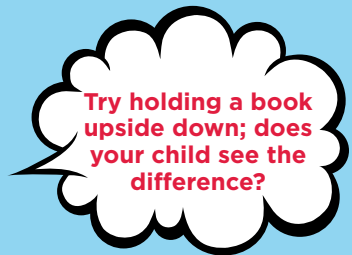
Wave SUZY LEE

A lovely wordless book about the relationship between a girl and the ocean - the pictures are there, but you and your child can come up with the story yourselves!



Swimmy LEO LIONNI

Poor Swimmy! He's a little black fish in a school full of red fish, which makes hiding from the big hungry creatures difficult! But by thinking creatively and encouraging teamwork, he just might be able to outsmart the big fish.



Try holding a book upside down; does your child see the difference?



did you know...

Reading is a great way to learn new words. What are your favourite words?

Frog and Toad are Friends ARNOLD LOBEL

A classic book of five funny stories for you to read with your child. The book tells the story of two inseparable friends, Frog and Toad, and the adventures they have together.

Froggy Gets Dressed

JONATHAN LONDON (Illustrated by Frank Remkiewicz)

Froggy is so excited to go outside and play in the snow - but before he can do that, he needs to get dressed in his winter clothes! Children will love the sounds that his clothes make as he puts them on.

Ananse's Feast

TOLOLWA M. MOLLEL (Illustrated by Andrew Glass)

In this retelling of a traditional Ashanti folktale, Ananse the Spider enjoys playing tricks on his friend Ayke. Will he ever learn his lesson?

The Paper Bag Princess

ROBERT MUNSCH (Illustrated by Michael Martchenko)

Princess Elizabeth needs to save Prince Ronald, but first must defeat a fire-breathing dragon - and all she has to wear is a paper bag!

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie

LAURA NUMEROFF (Illustrated by Felicia Bond)

Giving a mouse a cookie seems like a nice thing to do, but a cookie is only the beginning!

When You Were Small

SARA O'LEARY (Illustrated by Julie Morstad)

Henry wants to know what he was like when he was very small, so his dad tells him about the days when he was too small for his name and had to be carried around in a pocket.

Hand, Hand, Fingers, Thumb

AL PERKINS (Illustrated by Eric Gurney)

This book will have your hands clapping, your fingers tapping, and your palms drumming in no time! The rhythmic chants make a great way to play with sounds and syllables.

The Tale of Peter Rabbit BEATRIX POTTER

Beatrix Potter's daring rabbit character has been entertaining children for over a century! The small books are perfect for small hands to hold and explore.

Officer Buckle and Gloria

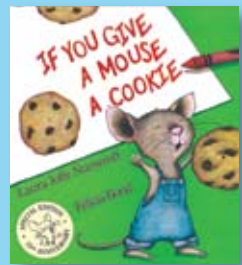
PEGGY RATHMANN

Officer Buckle loves giving safety lessons at elementary schools, but it's really Gloria, the police dog, that the children love to watch. Can Officer Buckle learn to combine his safety advice with Gloria's energy before it's too late?

Curious George

H.A. AND MARGRET REY

Curious George can't help but get caught up in the excitement of his new home with the Man in the Yellow Hat. *Curious George* has delighted children since it was first published in 1941.



Books have lots of words that we don't say very often - a great way to learn new words!



did you know...

If you are excited about reading together, your children will be excited too.



The True Story of the Three Little Pigs

JON SCIESZKA (Illustrated by Lane Smith)

You've heard the story of the *Three Little Pigs*, now it's time to hear the *true* story, straight from the Wolf! A clever story that that will engage your child's imagination and develop their narrative skills.



Where the Wild Things Are MAURICE SENDAK

Watch as Max sails away from his bedroom into the land of the wild things! Will he ever want to come home again?



Horton Hears a Who DR. SEUSS

Horton is a big elephant who hears a little noise - a noise so little that no one else can hear it! It's up to him to convince the rest of the animals in this classic book.



Caps for Sale ESPHYR SLOBODKINA

Children will love the bright colours and repetition found in this tale of a peddler, some monkeys, and their monkey business.



Amos and Boris WILLIAM STEIG

A beautiful friendship develops between a mouse and a whale, but when the whale is in trouble, will the mouse be able to save him? A wonderful story that is full of rich words and language.



Grumpy Bird JEREMY TANKARD



Bird wakes up one morning too grumpy to fly or play with his friends. While Bird is determined to keep his foul mood, this story helps show children that, even if you get off to a bad start, it is still possible to turn your day around.



Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day JUDITH VIORST

(Illustrated by Ray Cruz)

Alexander is having a day where nothing is going right - in fact, he's having a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day! Children will identify with his frustration and learn how to cope with their own bad days.



Scaredy Squirrel MÉLANIE WATT



Scaredy Squirrel's worries have kept him from leaving his home, but what will happen when he has to face his fears?



Noisy Nora ROSEMARY WELLS

Nora is the middle child in a big family. When she thinks that her mom and dad spend all their time with her brother and sister, she comes up with a new way to get attention: noise!

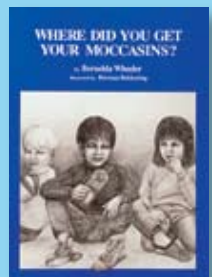


Where Did you Get Your Moccasins?



BERNELDA WHEELER (Illustrated by Herman Bekkering)

When a young boy brings his new pair of moccasins to school, it's an opportunity for him to share part of his Aboriginal culture with other students.





did you know...

Do you have a favourite author or illustrator? Visit your local EPL branch to find more of his or her books!



Tuesday DAVID WIESNER

There are only a few words in this book, so it's up to you and your child to tell the story of this unusual day.



Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! MO WILLEMS

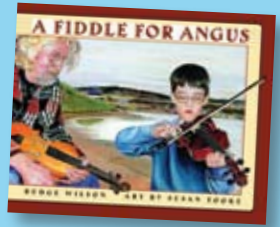
Pigeon is determined to drive a bus and he'll say anything he can think of to get you to change your mind! A wonderful example of how characters can talk directly to the reader - and how readers can talk back to the characters.



A Fiddle for Angus

BUDGE WILSON (Illustrated by Susan Tooke)

Angus is the youngest member of a musical family and he's excited about learning to play the fiddle in the family orchestra. But when the sound on the bow doesn't match the sound in his head, he starts to wonder if he will ever make beautiful music.



Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China ED YOUNG

While their mom is away, three sisters must face off against a cunning, crafty wolf. Will they be able to outsmart him?



Harry the Dirty Dog GENE ZION (Illustrated by Margaret Bloy Graham)

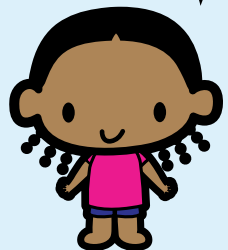
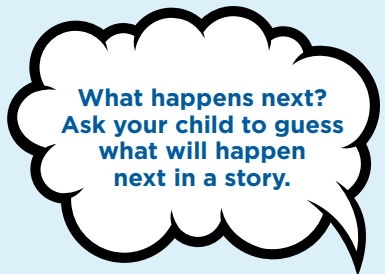
Harry is a mischievous little dog and he loves to get dirty. But could he ever get so dirty that his family wouldn't recognize him? Watch as he tries to go from being a black dog with white spots back to a white dog with black spots.

At _____ years old...

My favourite **book** is

My favourite **song** is

My favourite **game** is



Other great books that we read together:

My favourite places to read together:

My favourite part of reading together:

People I like to read with:

Hooray! You've completed 100 Great Books to Read Together, a booklet for young children and their caregivers presented by the Edmonton Public Library—what a wonderful step in sharing the importance of reading with your child!

The books and early literacy tips found in this booklet can help children develop strong early literacy skills that will benefit them throughout their entire lives. In addition to the thousands of books in our collection, EPL also offers a number of other ways to support early literacy.

Many free programs are available at your local branch. Storytimes, songs and rhymes, and puppet shows are great ways to have fun while developing early literacy skills. Does your child have his or her own free EPL card? Children under 24 months receive a free board book and rhyme book with their free new library card to help support developing early literacy skills at home. It's never too early to get a library card!

Visit epl.ca/readtalkplay or your local branch for more details on EPL's many free resources.

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**“The more that you read,
the more things you will
know. The more that you
learn, the more places
you’ll go.” ~ Dr. Seuss**