

50 books to read before you're five

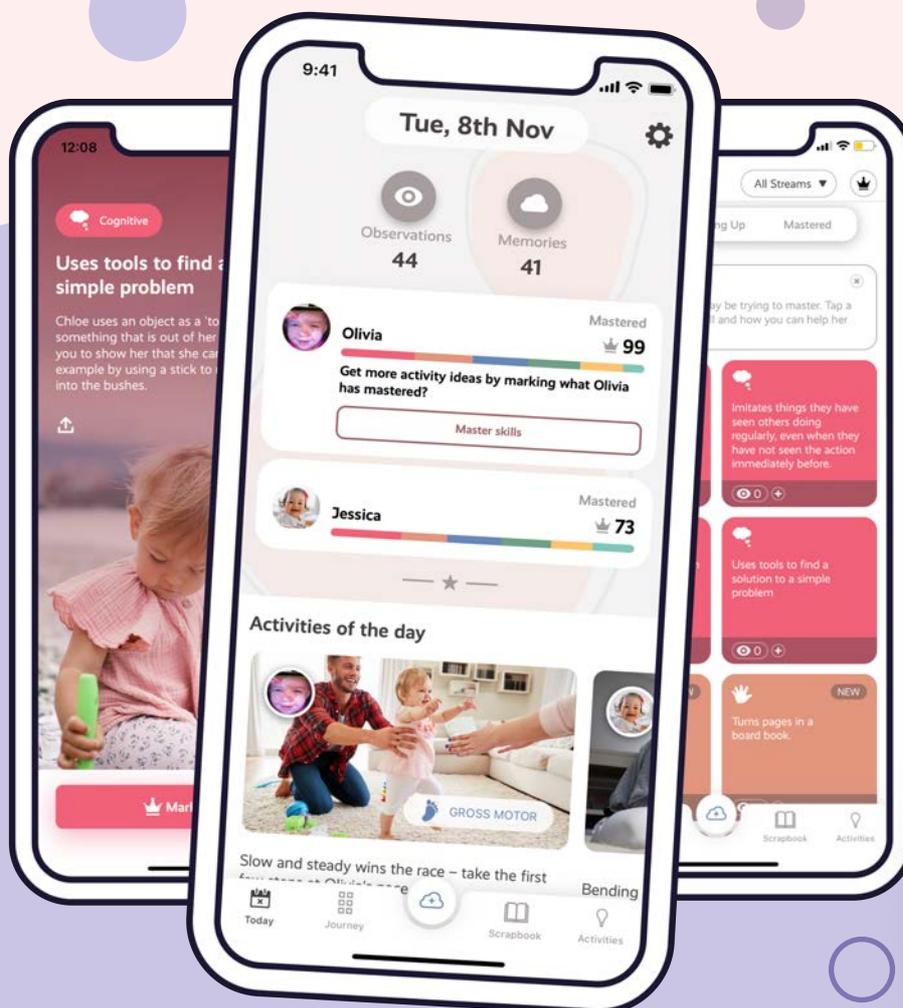


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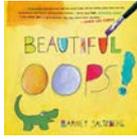
Started on



From the day your child is born, our app can guide you in supporting your child to foster a love of reading.



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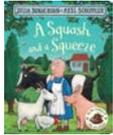
1 Beautiful Oops by Barney Saltzberg

If your child struggles with making mistakes, this book can help them to see that every mistake can lead to a beautiful adventure.



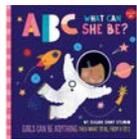
2 A Sled for Gabo by Emma Otheguy

This book beautifully highlights how people and animals can help one another unknowingly, without expecting anything in return, and it certainly sends a positive message home.



3 A Squash and a Squeeze by Julia Donaldson

The story is written in rhyme, which is great for helping your child listen to the sounds and patterns in words and brilliant for helping them to predict what might be coming next.



4 ABC What Can She Be? by Jessie Ford

Aimed at encouraging little ones to dream big and think beyond gender roles, at the same time as learning all about the alphabet.



5 Actual Size by Steven Jenkins

This is a great book for all those fascinated by animals! It's full of lots of interesting information about their size and is sure to start some interesting conversations.



6 Avocado Asks: What Am I? by Momoko Abe

The colourful and entertaining books is a great way to teach children that they are amazing and unique just the way they are, while also igniting lots of creative discussions.



7 Coming to England by Floella Benjamin

An inspiring story highlighting the differences between countries and cultures through the story of moving to England from Trinidad as part of the Windrush generation.



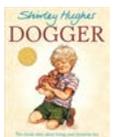
8 Cook It! by Georgie Birkett

Cook It! is a book all about how our hands can help out at home, from measuring ingredients, spreading them, cooking them and even washing up!



9 Diggersaurs Explore by Michael Whaite

This book successfully highlights how working together and helping one another may make tasks easier, while also appealing to fans of both diggers and dinosaurs!



10 Dogger by Shirley Hughes

Over the years this book has grown to be a classic, and a firm favourite of many. A sweet story about a boy who loses his favourite toy and the emotions that come with misplacing our favourite things.



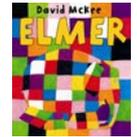
11 Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! by Mo Willems

In this book, the pigeon tries different ways to persuade your child to let them drive the bus. The story helps your child to think about different perspectives.



12 Each Peach Pear Plum by Janet and Allan Ahlberg

A classic picture book that is short, simple and sweet, making it perfect for a bedtime story from birth all the way through their early years. The pictures become more interesting to them as they grow.



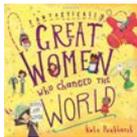
13 Elmer by David McKee

Elmer is a beautiful story for young readers that's all about celebrating your individuality and uniqueness. It shows us that what makes us different is what people love about us. Another timeless classic.



14 Evelyn Del Rey is Moving Away by Meg Medina

This story tells the tale of two best friends, one of whom is moving away. Full of promise and warmth, it helps children to reflect on their own feelings and important relationships.



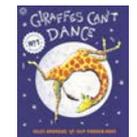
15 Fantasticly Great Women Who Changed the World by Kate Pankhurst

This book is a child-friendly celebration of inspiring women which can be enjoyed by girls, boys, parents and everybody in between.



16 Fly! by Xavier Deneux

This interactive book takes children through the life cycle of a bird. With stunning illustrations and moveable pieces, it provides hours of fun!



17 Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae

A funny and touching story about a giraffe called Gerald, and how he grows to accept his unique ways. This book has been loved for generations.



18 Goodnight Everyone by Chris Haughton

A peaceful bedtime story written about outdoor wildlife at night-time. You might find yourself getting sleepier and sleepier as you follow a little bear's quest to stay awake.



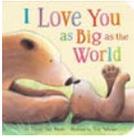
19 Home by Carson Ellis

The intricate illustrations open up the many possibilities of homes across the world, prompting in-depth discussions about how others might live.



20 How Big is a Million? by Anna Milbourne and Serena Riglietti

A fun way to help your child to understand more mathematical concepts through a lovely story about penguins.



21 I Love You as Big as the World by David Van Buren

A soft and gentle bed time story that uses lots of new and interesting vocabulary while reiterating how much a parent loves their child.



22 Joy by Yasmeen Ismail and Jenni Desmond

This energetic, heart-warming story provides a reassuring message to children that they have family to help them out, comfort them and get them back on their feet.



23 Just Ask! by Sonia Sotomayor

This story shows the importance of working together and considering one another, and the wonderful things that can happen as a result of doing so.



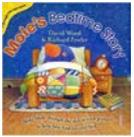
24 Kitchen Disco by Clare Foges and Al Murphy

This book is funny, rhythmic and uplifting! We also love that it might encourage you to try your own kitchen disco.



25 Look Up by Nathan Bryon

Look Up tells the story of Rocket, a science-mad little girl who dreams of becoming an astronaut when she grows up. It's also about family and relationships, and is a modern classic.



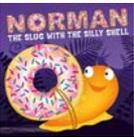
26 Mole's Bedtime Story by David Wood and Richard Fowler

This is a perfect bedtime story, with lots to talk about, and its interactive nature will keep your child desperate to revisit it night after night.



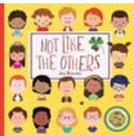
27 My Little Book of Big Freedoms by Chris Riddell

This book contains sketches which encapsulate the freedoms and protections people enjoy every day, but perhaps never notice. It can be enjoyed at face value and adored as your child's understanding deepens.



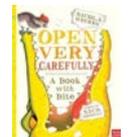
28 Norman the Slug with the Silly Shell by Sue Hendra

A fun book that will get your emotions whirring as Norman adventures into brave new worlds. It offers opportunities for questions and further conversation, along with a good giggle.



29 Not Like the Others by Jana Broecker

Embracing what makes us unique can be tricky at times, especially as a young child. This book is great at celebrating our differences and what makes us all special, which can open up a great dialogue with your own child.



30 Open Very Carefully by Nick Bromley and Nicola O'Byrne

This book is exciting, funny and scary! It has a beautiful blend of silliness, interaction and thought-provoking questions, while being full of mischief, making it an energetic, entertaining story to share.



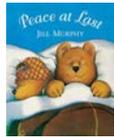
31 Owl Babies by Martin Waddell

Shared with children for many years, Owl Babies tells the story of three owls who have lost their mum. Its repeated refrains help your child to join in, and the book can also support with transitions.



32 Party Pants by Giles Andreae and Nick Sharratt

This laugh-out-loud tale is perfect for the whole family. Jam-packed full of whacky and colourful illustrations, there is something new to look at every time you read it and its naughtiness will never fail to make you smile.



33 Peace at Last by Jill Murphy

This best-seller by much-loved author Jill Murphy is a wonderful bedtime treat. Its repeated phrases will have your children joining in and its beautiful illustrations will encourage your children to remember it for a lifetime.



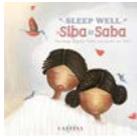
34 Rosie Revere, Engineer by Andrea Beaty

This story is brimming with creativity. It challenges gender stereotypes, while also gently talking about history. A super book for exploring themes of resilience, perseverance and problem-solving.



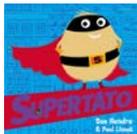
35 Shark in the Park by Nick Sharratt

This charming story has a rhythmic flow and is very repetitive, making it perfect for pre-school children. The illustrations are simple, allowing the reader to focus on what the main character is doing and seeing.



36 Sleep Well Siba-Saba by Nansubuga Nagadya Isdahl and Sandra van Doorn

Many of the words, places, creatures, and items in this book are indigenous to Uganda, and the wonderful drawings transport you there. It's packed with interesting vocabulary and beautiful pictures which flawlessly support the engaging words of the story.



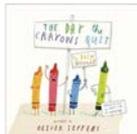
37 Supertato by Sue Hendra

A hilarious story, with vibrant and exciting illustrations to match. Funny and charming, this is a must for any bookshelf! This book is great for young children, but adults will also enjoy the puns and jokes in the story.



38 Sweep by Louise Greig

This is a great conversation starter about moods, feelings, and those times when we may experience frustration and anger. The illustrations and the comparisons between feelings and autumn storms are great for explaining your child's own thoughts and feelings.



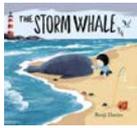
39 The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt

This is a fantastic, funny and silly book that will be enjoyed by many. The bold and bright illustrations add beautifully to the story about a series of letters of complaint from the crayons to Duncan, the boy who owns them.



40 The Heart and the Bottle by Oliver Jeffers

A moving story which covers the highly sensitive subject of grief. Grief can be a difficult subject to discuss with young children, but this story approaches it in a thoughtful way. A great story for children to enjoy and help them think about things that they may not have experienced.



41 The Storm Whale by Benji Davies

This beautiful story opens up discussions about families, relationships, and what it is like to be lonely – something that is experienced by all but can often be difficult to talk about or understand.



42 The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

A children's classic for many reasons! Children love it because it is interactive, with different-sized flaps to explore and little holes in the fruits to show where the caterpillar has been munching away.



43 The Way Back Home by Oliver Jeffers

A funny story with beautiful illustrations, The Way Back Home also touches on the topic of loneliness and is a great way to open up this discussion with younger children.



44 The Worrysaurus by Rachel Bright

This book is reassuring for young children and their parents too. It discusses how it feels when we are worried and anxious, from overthinking to tummy butterflies. The illustrations are bright and vibrant, and complement the story beautifully.



45 There's a Rang-Tan in My Bedroom by James Sellick and Frann Preston-Gannon

A wonderful story about an orangutan who flees the rainforest and as is terrified of what is going on there. Rang-tan makes her way into a little girl's room and instantly causes chaos in an attempt to teach the small girl about her home.



46 Tiny, Perfect Things by MH Clark

This is a book all about celebrating what many see as the ordinary and seeing the beauty in the everyday. The story encourages both children and adults to have gratitude for the little things in life, as well as one another.



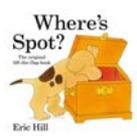
47 Vegetable Glue by Susan Chandler

This story is fun and silly, and written in a way which helps children to develop the concept of rhyme and rhythm. It is also one that is easy to join in with – maybe see if your child can finish off the lines after reading it together a few times.



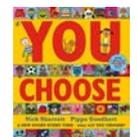
48 We are Family by Patricia Hegarty and Ryan Wheatcroft

We are Family shows different families – some that might look like your own, and some that may not. Differences between families are something to be understood and cherished, and this book achieves that goal beautifully.



49 Where's Spot? by Eric Hill

Spot has been a beloved character in children's books for more than forty years, meaning that there are probably many My First Five Years parents who read one of his many adventures as a child! Where's Spot? is a classic lift-the-flap book for young children.



50 You Choose by Pippa Goodhart

There's not much text in the book but so much opportunity to learn new vocabulary and start conversations through the illustrations. It's vibrant and its outcomes will be different every time you read it.