

50 GREAT READS

FOR AGES 0-5

50 GREAT READS FOR CHILDREN AGED 0-5 COMPILED BY DLR LIBRARIES

DLR Libraries invites you to choose from 200 of the best authors and books for children and teenagers. We have divided them into 4 age categories to help you find the right book for you. There are separate lists for each category, so be sure to look out for other leaflets in this series.

Some of the books are old and loved enough to be called classics, and some are by exciting new writers, but they're all on this list because they are the most borrowed and requested books in the library, so really it's you who have chosen them.

Most of these authors have written other books that you can enjoy too, and some also span several age categories, so when you find a book you particularly enjoy, ask about other titles by the author.

Can't find what you're looking for? Ask a member of staff, we're here to help.

Happy reading!

AS SEEN ON ...

› Awdry, Rev W: Thomas the Tank Engine

In its sixty-fifth anniversary year, Thomas and his friends remain as popular as ever, loved by millions all over the world; the original “Railway Series” books continue to delight children of all ages.

› Butterworth, Nick: One snowy night (Percy the park keeper)

This, the first Percy story, introduces us to an endearing and enduring character whose relationship to his animal friends is like that of a tolerant parent to mischievous children. The expressive colour illustrations perfectly complement the humorous and easy-to-read text.

› Child, Lauren: But where completely are we? (Charlie and Lola)

Lola really wants to live in a tent. ‘I would quite like to be an explorer, Charlie,’ says Lola. So Charlie and Lola set off on an adventure, but instead of packing explorer essentials like binoculars or string, Lola has brought lots and lots of glitter and pink milk! Another hilarious adventure for the brother and sister team.

› Hargreaves, Roger: Mr. Noisy (Mr. Men & Little Miss)

A classic story from the Mr. Men series, which follows a day in the life of the chaotic, insufferable, yet lovable Mr. Noisy.

› McKee, David: Elmer and Rose

Elmer celebrates the uniqueness of each individual when he meets a new girl elephant - who happens to be pink!

› Rey, Margret & H.A.: Curious George

Curious George, the beguiling little monkey, has found a lasting place in the hearts of millions of boys and girls all over the world ever since he was brought to life by Margret and H.A. Rey more than sixty years ago.





› Sendak, Maurice: Where the wild things are

One of those truly rare books that can be enjoyed equally by a child and a grown-up. Max dons his wolf suit in pursuit of some mischief and gets sent to bed without supper. Fortunately, a forest grows in his room, allowing his wild rampage to continue unimpaired.

› Whybrow, Ian: Harry and the bucketful of dinosaurs

Harry finds some dusty plastic dinosaurs in Nan's attic. He cleans them, finds out their names and takes them everywhere - until, one day, the dinosaurs get lost! The lost property man gets a surprise when Harry proves the dinosaurs are his by calling them over to him.

FUNNY

› Dale, Penny: Ten in the bed

With ten in the bed, it's a bit of a squeeze. Roll over, roll over! But the little one gets cold all alone, and soon all ten are snuggled up and fast asleep. This famous rhyme will appeal to children who can enjoy shouting out the crash, thud and bump noises!

› Donaldson, Julia: Tabby McTat

Fred, the busker, and his cat, Tabby McTat, are purr-fectly happy, singing together all day long. But when Fred gives chase to a thief, the two are separated. Will they ever find each other again? A heart-warming story of friendship, loyalty and kittens.

› Freedman, Claire: Aliens in underpants save the world

Aliens in underpants are back - and this time they're on a mission to save the world! A gigantic meteorite is heading for planet earth and the aliens' pants supply is under threat. Can our crazy aliens save planet earth and secure their pants supply forever more?





› Gray, Kes & Sharratt, Nick: Eat your peas (A Daisy book)

A wickedly funny book about dinner time which will appeal to fussy eating children and their despairing parents!

› Inkpen, Mick: We are wearing out the naughty step

Mummy is not happy... but the day she makes Kevin a chocolate birthday cake is the day that everyone, including Mummy, ends up on the Naughty Step! A warmly told story of family that will strike a chord with many.

› McNaughton, Colin: Not last night but the night before

Not last night but the night before, lots of folk knocked at the boy's door. They knocked him down when he let them in – but was there a big surprise for him? Meet all of your favourite nursery characters in this fabulous romp of a book!

› Melling, David: Hugless Douglas

Douglas is a brown, huggable, lovable bear, and he wakes up one morning in need of a hug. He goes to try and find one – but none of them seem quite right. Join Douglas on his search for the perfect bear hug!

› Rogerson, Gillian: You can't eat a princess!

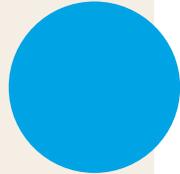
When King Cupcake is kidnapped by hungry aliens, it's up to his feisty daughter, Princess Spaghetti, to save him from becoming their dinner.

› Sharkey, Niamh: On the road with Mavis and Marge

A zany bunch of pals succumb to wanderlust – and get more than they bargained for.

› Thomas, Valerie & Paul, Korky: Winnie in space (Winnie the Witch)

Winnie the witch and her cat Wilbur decide to indulge in a little space exploration. But however exciting flying saucers, shooting stars and space rabbits might be, Winnie's a witch who knows there's no place like home!



› Willis, Jeanne: Sing a song of bottoms

It's the funniest talent show ever! In fabulous rhyming text, meet bears with baggy bottoms, pigs with perky pink ones and peacocks who love to put theirs on display. Perfect for reading aloud and guaranteed to cause fits of giggles.

CLASSIC

› Bemelmans, Ludwig: Madeline and the bad hat

In an old house in Paris that was covered in vines lived twelve little girls in two straight lines... The small but feisty heroine, Madeline, and her charming Parisian world have been loved by children and adults alike for seventy years.

› Bruna, Dick: Miffy at the seaside

Dick Bruna's captivating illustrations make Miffy an enduring classic.

› Campbell, Rod: Dear Zoo

I wrote to the zoo to send me a pet ... This classic lift-the-flap book has been a favourite with toddlers ever since it was first published in 1982.

› Carle, Eric: The Very hungry caterpillar

The imaginative illustration and clever cut-out detail chart the progress of a very hungry caterpillar as he eats his way through the week, in this perennial favourite.

› Hill, Eric: Where's Spot? / Cá bhfuil Bran?

Spot's mum searches everywhere for little Spot in Eric Hill's first lift-the-flap tale.

› Lear, Edward (with new verse by Angela McAllister, ill. By Kevin Waldron): The Owl and the pussycat

New version of the classic poem, with illustrations by up-and-coming Irish illustrator, Kevin Waldron.



› Milne, A.A.: Winnie the Pooh

The Winnie-the-Pooh stories have been loved by generations of children since Pooh, Christopher Robin, Piglet, Rabbit, Owl, Kanga, Roo and Eeyore first made their appearance in 1926.

› Nicoll, Helen: Meg's mummy (Meg & Mog)

Meg and Mog fly off on an adventure to Egypt, where Mog is mistaken for a cat mummy and imprisoned in a pyramid. Can Meg use her magic to rescue him?

› Rosen, Michael: We're going on a bear hunt

Beautifully illustrated by Helen Oxenbury, this delightful picture book tells of a family setting off in search of a bear in a cave. Can they overcome the many obstacles in their path?

› Scarry, Richard: What do people do all day?

Packed with pictures and things to spot on every page, this classic has been refreshed to bring the world of Richard Scarry to a new generation of readers. What do people do all day? Everyone is busy in Busytown, from train drivers to doctors, from mothers to sailors, in police stations and on fire engines...

› Seuss, Dr.: The Cat in the hat

He may be an old standby, but he never lets us down. When in doubt, turn to this story of the cat that transformed a dull, rainy afternoon into a magical and just-messy-enough adventure.

ANIMALS

› Alborough, Jez: Duck in the truck

Colourful, arresting and bursting with action, this book is a lesson in rhyme and rhythm as well as storytelling.



› **Andreae, Giles: Giraffes can't dance**

Every year Gerald dreads the great Jungle Dance, and feels ashamed that he cannot tango and two-step with the rest of the jungle animals. But then one day he realises that it doesn't matter that he is different from everyone else – It's just that he needs a different tune to dance to.

› **Berenstain, Stan & Jan: The Bear's picnic**

The Berenstain Bear family decides to go for a picnic, and Dad knows the perfect spot, or does he? Beginner readers will identify with the little bears who follow Papa Bear from one hilarious disaster to another until they find the ideal picnic place - at home!

› **Braun, Sébastien: Meeow and the pots and pans**

Little ones will love joining in as Meeow and his friends use the objects they have found in the kitchen to make music. This is the third book in the Meeow series which focuses on creative play around the home.

› **Cousins, Lucy: Maisy goes on holiday**

In the eighth title of the popular Maisy First Experiences series, Maisy and Cyril catch a train and visit the seaside for a fun-filled holiday.

› **Falconer, Ian: Olivia goes to Venice**

Olivia, everyone's favourite little pig, uncovers the wonderful delights of Venice with that very special 'Olivia' style and flair!

› **Kerr, Judith: The Tiger who came to tea**

This book has enduring charm, and young children will delight in the preposterous notion of a tiger creating mayhem in the house.

› **Waddell, Martin: Owl babies**

A charming, reassuring book for any child who has ever worried about Mummy leaving them alone. Owl Babies is a beautifully illustrated and exquisitely executed picture book to warm the cockles of the heart.

GROWING/ LEARNING

› Bennett, Benji: Before you sleep

How many ways can you explain to your child how much you love them? 24 pages of colourful illustrations and rhymes.

› Blake, Quentin: Ten frogs

A counting book by Quentin Blake, one of today's best-loved children's illustrators.

› Browne, Anthony: Look what I've got

Jeremy, it seems, has everything: a new bicycle, a pirate outfit, an enormous bag of lollipops. But he won't share anything with Sam. Could it be, though, that Sam has something far more valuable? This stunning book is filled with visual jokes and a message to inspire.

› Fitzpatrick, Marie-Louise: Silly school

Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick carefully introduces young children to what can be expected at school and the types of routine that will be followed in this gentle, affectionate book.

› Fox, Mem & Oxenbury, Helen: Ten little fingers and ten little toes

The essential book for baby playtime.

› Graham, Bob: Brand new baby

A picture book which traces the final days of pregnancy and the first days of having a new brother, as seen through the eyes of two small children, who offer their remarks and comments along the way.

› Hughes, Shirley: Don't want to go!

Mum is ill and Dad has to go to work, so Lily will have to go to Melanie's house for the day. Lily doesn't want to go! Join Lily as she braves Melanie's house, and realises that doing new things needn't be scary after all...

› Jeffers, Oliver: The Heart and the bottle

Award-winning picture book star, Oliver Jeffers, explores themes of love and loss in this life-affirming, uplifting tale, due to be featured in a major film. Once there was a girl who was full of wonderment at how the world worked. She shared all her dreams and excitement with her father, who always had the answer to every question. That is until one day when his chair was empty, not to be filled again - how would the girl ever find meaning from her life again?

› Killen, Nicola: Not me!

A group of young children have been making a mess. But when they are asked who did it, they all reply innocently, 'Not me!' The reader will know the truth straight away though, as the clues are there for all to see!

› Miller, Virginia: On your potty!

Recommended for that tricky time when the little ones are trying to figure out just what that potty thing is for, this book will help parents with toilet-training - And it's a lot of fun to read!

› Murray, Alison: Apple pie ABC

This delightful board book presents the alphabet in the form of a story in which a mischievous puppy attempts to get his paws on an apple pie... As well as an entertaining tale, it is an inventive way to help familiarise children with the alphabet.

› Ross, Tony: I want a friend (Little Princess)

This instalment of the Little Princess series focuses on the difficult experience of starting school and making friends. Written with insightful understanding of a child's perspective, it also manages to maintain the anarchic humour that characterises this brilliant series.