



2014 CLEL Bell Nominations List

Read

Halloween Hustle by Charlotte Gunnufson; illustrated by Kevan Atteberry (Two Lions)

"Adult and child can make up their own Halloween Hustle dance, dance along to the video on the author's website, or host a Halloween dance party of their own. Children can be invited to name as many of the Halloween characters as they can (Frankenstein, mummy, ghost, etc.) and encouraged to spot Skeleton's funny little sidekick and describe how he's feeling and what he's doing in each scene. Adult and child can talk about times they've fallen down and gotten up again or fallen short of a goal and kept on trying."

Tiger in My Soup by Kashmira Shetch; illustrated by Jeffrey Ebbler (Peachtree)

"The font in this story promotes print awareness and entices the child to see what the words say next as they float across the pages in a dreamlike fashion. This book supports print motivation because it models wanting to read and that reading is important in this household."

Is This Panama? by Jan Thornhill; illustrated by Soyeon Kim (Owlkids Books)

"Is This Panama? is a great read-aloud story that exemplifies the idea of narrative and early reading. In the book, Sammy, a young Wilson's warbler, wakes up one frosty August morning to discover that all of his fellow warblers have left on their migratory journey without him. Throughout the story, Sammy interacts with various migrating creatures to figure out how to get to his destination. The story builds from page to page, and illustrations mirror each stage in the plot. By exemplifying the concepts of story and conflict for beginning readers, this book is tied to the theme READ. "

The Snatchabook by Helen Docherty; illustrated by Tom Docherty (Sourcebooks Jabberwocky)

"There are so many questions to be asked while reading this story: who is the Snatchabook? Why is he taking the books? How will the animals get them back? Making predictions is an important part of the storytelling skill and leads to greater comprehension skills later on."

Max Goes to the Space Station by Jeffery Bennett; illustrated by Michael Carroll (Big Kid Science)

"The book is designed so that parents and children can read together; in particular, the sidebars help parents answer questions that younger kids are likely to ask. Note: Normally I don't think of my books as aimed at the 0-5 category; however, numerous people have contacted me and told me they use my books in this way, so I hope you don't mind my submitting it. "

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View from a Zoo by Artie Knapp (MightyBook Inc.)

"In View from a Zoo the power of reading is chronicled by the escapades of Thea, an adventurous house-cat. At the Bronx Zoo, Thea has an epiphany about the relationship between books and the imagination that changes her sense of reality. Using books is at the heart and soul of what this book is about."

Warning: Do Not Open This Book by Adam Lerhaupt; illustrated by Matthew Forsythe (Simon & Schuster Children's)

"Lots of room to ask questions and make predictions: "what do you think will happen when we turn the page?" "What is making that noise?" "Let's whisper. Do you think they can hear us?"

Ice Cream Soup by Ann Ingalls; illustrated by Richard Watson (Penguin New Readers)

"This book is perfect for an emergent reader who can:
--can read in a left-to-right and top-to-bottom progression;
--can recognize some beginning and ending letter sounds;
--can hear and identify rhyming words;
--can use picture clues to help tell the story; and
--can understand the basic plot and sequence of simple stories."

Later Gator, In a While Crocodile by Mike Fortunato; illustrated by Shannon Parish (Outskirts Press)

"Later Gator, In a While Crocodile is an excellent read. It has 3 short stories that capture the attention of youngsters with the words and the amazing illustrations on each page. The series of stories teaches life lessons for kids to receive at an early age. The book has very funny parts to it as well with "ants in purple underpants"."

Journey by Aaron Becker (Candlewick Press)

Use sidewalk chalk and draw your own adventure. Have your child tell you the story they have drawn, to help increase their vocabulary and storytelling skills. If you don't have a place outside, make a small book out of paper and help your child draw their story."

Down at the Dino Wash Deluxe by Tim J. Myers; illustrated by Macky Pamintuan (Sterling)

"Dino Wash is based on that most fundamental of the forces that drive child literacy: motivation through enjoyment. The story's child-characters, including the narrator, are relatable to children, and the narrator's fear of the T-rex resonates with childhood fears. And its resolution can be both a relief and a pleasure to children, a kind of catharsis. The basic setting--a dinosaur car wash where child-employees interact with dinosaurs--is a pleasing fantasy, and the story's playful language and tone add to its pleasure. When a child loves a story, he or she will ask for it again and again, strengthening literacy in any number of ways. This is that kind of book."

The Children Who Loved Books by Peter Carnavas (Kane Miller)

"[This book will be] inspiration to visit the public library and get [a] child a library card. Spark a discussion of the child's favorite book(s), authors. Inspiration to create a homemade book. Spark a discussion of why reading brings family members together."

The Story of Fish and Snail by Deborah Freedman (Viking/Penguin Group)

"Fish and Snail both use books by jumping in and out of pages. They are also telling each other stories and creating them together"

"Encourages daily reading and new vocabulary about feelings of being afraid and trying something new. The ending shows the child that you can be afraid and upset with someone and still be ok in the end."

"Fish and Snail are characters from a book, but Fish likes to go out and explore and enjoy other books. He comes back to tell Snail about the wonderful adventures to be found in other books, but Snail is too nervous to try other stories...Fish and Snail both use books by jumping in and out of pages. They are also telling each other stories and creating them together....This book shows how reading can directly affect play."

No Pirates Allowed! Said Library Lou by Rhonda Growler Greene, illustrated by Brian Ajhar (Sleeping Bear Press)

"Library Lou is just as strong as Pete the Pirate, but they still be friends. Talk about how friendships work, even if at first it doesn't feel like they will work. Using the letters and words that Library Pete has learned, bring your child to the library and discover books that pirates might want to read. Keep a list so you can build a library like Pete the Pirate."

Again! by Emily Gravett (Simon and Schuster)

"Besides describing the entrancing and captivating quality of repetition of a favorite book, the roles of parent and child in the reading-together experience are perceptively portrayed...this has some real print awareness support and narrative skills support as the changing story is relayed."

Open This Little Book by Jesse Klausmeier, illustrated by Suzy Lee (Chronicle Books)

"Since this book is a series of smaller books, the child has lots of experience opening a book and turning pages within a book...even young children can help read the titles of the smaller books once they know their colors...It would be great to empower parents and caregivers to make their own stories. This book shows that a book can even be a couple of pages."

Open Very Carefully: A Book with Bite by Nick Bromley, illustrated by Nicola O'Byrne (Nosy Crow)

"We are reading a story when all of a sudden we discover something that should not be in the story - an alligator! The story changes completely and it becomes about how to get the alligator out of the story when he begins eating the words! After reading, try and figure out where the alligator might have gone after he escapes from the book. Did he enter to another book? Is he in the house? Imagine how his story continues - the child can draw it while the adult writes the story the child tells!"

Exclamation Mark (!) by Amy Krouse Rosenthal, illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld (Scholastic)

"This book is definitely for a read aloud encouraging children to learn about punctuation and interact with the story. Parent and child work together identifying the sentences spoken at home that end in either a period, question or exclamation. This can be done as a game."

I'm Not Reading! by Jonathan Allen (Boxer Books)

"An excited Baby Owl sits under a tree with his favorite book, ready to read to Owly his stuffed friend. However, he is not the only one excited about reading. First one Tiny Chick asks to listen to the story and is told "yes" but only if you sit quietly. Then more and more chicks want to listen to the story until they cover Baby Owl. Baby Owl will not read like this. In the end, with help from grown-ups everyone gets to enjoy the story....This story provides listeners a wonderful model or will give them the idea of creating their own storytime with a special adult in their life, or their special stuffed friends."

Write

My First Touch and Trace: Count 123 by Tiger Tales (Little Tiger Press)

"This book has the numbers 1 - 20 cut out with arrows for how to write them indicated so children can trace each number with his or her finger and learn the shape and how to write it. The book is lift-the-flap, which helps to build the fine motor skills necessary for writing. Feeling the shape of each letter will also stimulate the senses in the finger, which will strengthen brain connections while reading this book."

My First Touch and Trace: First ABC by Tiger Tales (Little Tiger Press)

"This book supports learning new words. Each letter has two different words to demonstrate the letter sound at the beginning of the word. This also builds phonological awareness because the first letter sound can be emphasized while you read it aloud. Children will love lifting the flaps and the interactive tracing makes it more fun to read and learn about writing. Tracing the letters will build letter knowledge and children will learn how to use books as they handle this one, lift the flaps and turn the pages."

Oddrey and the New Kid by Dave Whamond (Owlkids Books)

"This book leads naturally into discussions of a child's own classmates or peers. Which are like Oddrey? Which are like Maybelline? To whom does this child relate most? Would he or she get along with Oddrey or Maybelline? The book explores early aspects of personality and identity."

The Line by Paula Bossio (Kids Can Press)

"On top of discussing the illustrations, the book could be extended to a collaborative book. Adults could help children create their own story or simply draw some pictures."

Henri's Scissors by Jeanette Winter (Beach Lane Books)

"After sharing this book with children, you can paint pictures and cut out shapes from paper to create art. Cutting out paper and painting builds fine motor skills children need for learning how to write. It is a good practice for developing writing skills and for developing imagination and critical thinking skills.

After reading the book, you can also go on a field trip to an art museum to discover many other artists. Pick out the paintings you and your child enjoy most. Why do you like the art? Can you recreate a similar piece of art at home? Going on field trips to explore your child's interests builds background knowledge and comprehension skills that will help him or her understand what he or she is learning about in books and school. These types of shared experiences are also moments of bonding between you and your child that will support his or her learning throughout life."

Journey by Aaron Becker (Candlewick)

"This is a title that really lends itself to making predictions and then discovering your own possibilities with drawing. An ode to creation of all kinds as well as friendship and discovery, the title will stimulate children to turn everyday objects into pieces of their own adventures."

Caterina and the Perfect Party by Erin Eitter Kono (Dial)

"Caterina has a list for everything, including things to do to get ready for her first party ever. She thinks of everything and writes it all on the list. Then she writes out invitations and draws on paper bags to make decorations. The only problem is, Caterina's lists can't help her control the weather on the day of her party."

The Things I Can Do by Jeff Mack (Roaring Brook Press)

Before the title page, the reader is greeted and invited in to see what this boy drew. He then tells us it is the very book we are about to read. Each page is hand-crafted by the title boy and shows us all the things he is able to do by himself.

Henry's Map by David Elliot (Philomel)

"In Henry's Map, Henry loves to keep things tidy so he decides to draw a map of the farm where he lives. Drawing is an integral part of learning to write and this book will inspire little people to create maps of their own."

"After reading, parent and child will be inspired to create maps of their own - perhaps of the house, a local park, the school classroom? The child can draw the location of an item, and the parent can add words as dictated by the child. Perhaps they can also collect maps from places they visit (zoo, museum, etc.) and talk about what they see on them and where they went, tracing their path.

The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt, illustrated by Oliver Jeffers (Philomel Books)

"Scribbling and drawing are precursors to writing letters and words, and this story will definitely inspire the reader and listener to get out their own crayons and, using their imaginations, draw something out-of-the-ordinary. A pink penguin? A blue bear? Why not?"

"Start a discussion about coloring, do you have to color in the lines, can an elephant be red? Encouraging a child's artistic creativity at any age supports individuality and personality. Discuss with your child why they yellow and orange colors both think they are the color of the sun. Is it worth fighting over. This book can lead into a discussion about conflict between siblings and different ways to solve it, making everyone happy in the end. "

"Write your own letter, write a letter that a crayon or other toy would write, write a story, illustrate your story with crayons."

Monsters Love Colors by Mike Austin (HarperCollins)

"The monsters use their crayons to scribble and mix colors...talking about how primary colors mix into secondary colors is good background knowledge. Scribbling is also a great age-appropriate pre-writing skill. Children could draw scribbles with crayons, and the adults could talk with the children about where to draw arms and legs and eyes to make their own color monsters."

Exclamation Mark (!) by Amy Krouse Rosenthal, illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld (Scholastic)

"Adults will enjoy this book as much as the children with whom they share it. Caregivers will need to take the time to read this book with expression to convey the meaning of the

punctuation marks. They may also use it as a teaching tool to explain what periods, exclamation points and question marks mean. After reading this book to their child, both adult and child can use art materials and pencils and papers to practice writing periods, exclamation points and questions marks. Caregivers can also talk to their child about things that make them excited. They can write down what their child says and put in the exclamation points. After writing what their child says, parents can read aloud (with expression) their child's sentence while pointing to each word in the sentence."

TALK

Diggers Go by Steve Light (Chronicle Books)

"This book is about the different sounds each construction vehicle makes. For example, "The excavator goes, chumma chumma chumma huff huff falump". The pictures and text are big and bold, which will encourage children to interact with the book and make the noises themselves after hearing their caregiver read it aloud."

Welcome to Mamoko by Aleksandra Mizielinska and Daniel Mizielinska (Big Picture Press - Candlewick)

"As previously mentioned, this book is more like 20 books in one so the interaction time will be plenty. One could also use this book to make up stories about the people he/she sees passing by in a store or in a park. a family could also easily make their own Welcome to Mamoko book using crayons, markers, and/or magazine cutouts."

I Like Berries, Do You? by Marjorie W. Pitzer (Woodbine House, Inc.)

"The book is a series of questions asking children if they like a certain healthy foods. For example, "I like yogurt! Do you?" Each page has a different photograph of a child enjoying the healthy food that is being discussed in the words and hopefully by the parent and child once they read the page of the book. This book promotes diversity in race and ability, which shows that we may all be a little different, but we also all have things in common."

I'm a Frog! by Mo Willems (Hyperion Books for Children)

"This book supports a variety of pre-reading skills. The writing style along is in conversation bubbles, including new punctuation and different fonts to represent emotion. The word pretend it the primary new word introduced in the book, spelling it out phonetically. Fun new book by Willems."

My Neighbor is a Dog by Isabel Minhós Martin; illustrated by Madalena Matoso (Owlkids Books)

"This book could lead to discussions about tolerance, diversity and differences within a child's community. What do people say about each other? Is it true? Is it valid? How much do we let TALK influence our opinions?"

Moo! by David LaRochelle; illustrated by Mike Wohnoutka (Walker Books for Young Readers)

"Learning animal sounds is is one of the first ways children learn to distinguish the sounds in language. The book is fun to read and will have both the child and caregiver giggling over the plot twists in the story. The illustrations are bright and bold, which makes the meaning of the almost wordless picture book easy to decipher."

Which is Round, Which Is Bigger? by Mineko Mamada (Kids Can Press)

"This is a wonderful title to stimulate conversation, as it challenges children to describe what has changed in the pictures from one spread to the next. By explicitly asking readers "What do you think?" children are encouraged to share their ideas and thoughts."

Vampire Baby by Kelly Bennett (Candlewick Press)

VAMPIRE BABY encourages the discussion of biting, and the sibling angle—and how we all sometimes have negative, “not nice” feeling about our siblings, friends, parents—and that it’s normal/usual.

The Spooky Box by Mark Gonyea (Henry Holt & Co.)

"This book cuts quickly to the chase. A box is left on the front door and a scaredy cat narrator imagines all of the spooky things that could be inside. The level of terror is perfect for preschoolers. It builds on the tension of "what might be inside" and finally climaxes with a lift-the-flap page that lets the reader open the box.. only to discover more mystery! The pacing is well-timed. The author shows the reader how to play the guessing game, getting gradually spookier and spookier (with the occasional happy guess) and ending with a perfect conversation starter: "What do you think could be inside?" Extending the dialog from the book is natural and easy. The parent/caregiver will feel inclined to offer a few possibilities and (with any luck) they will be off to the races! This books delightfully eerie approach will keep many kids coming back for more. I fear this title may get overlooked by many who may consider it a Halloween-novelty. It is really quite a lot more."

Bear and Bee by Sergio Ruzzier (Disney-Hyperion)

"Very simple and bouncy words, and sweet and funny pictures work beautifully together, creating a story about the correction of misconceptions. The best thing about this book is how an important "lesson" is taught with such a light and warm touch."

AH HA! by Jeff Mack (Chronicle Books)

"Child and caregiver can practice saying words with different expressions. Say aahh two different ways and it means two very different things. Go to a pond, lake, or river and see what wildlife is out there. Can you catch any in a jar? Sing 5 Green and Speckled Frogs to get you in the mood. Finally, it is a great book to practice writing in some way the letters A and H."

Warning: Do Not Open This Book by Adam Lerhaupt; illustrated by Matthew Forsythe (Simon & Schuster)

"After reading this book together adults and children can talk about and look for signs in their neighborhood. What do they say? What do they mean? What signs would you like to have? Go back home and make your own signs. Make real signs and also make believe signs that are fun and silly.

After closing the book at the end, the monkeys, toucans and alligator are in a new book. It would be fun to write your own story about the new book these animals are now in. What do they do in this story? Are they still naughty? Where do they go? Write and illustrate this story together as a sequel to ""Warning: Do Not Open this Book!""."

Off We Go! A Bear and Mole Story by Will Hillenbrand (Holiday House)

"Go outside and practice riding your 2 wheeler with your parents. If you're ready to take off the training wheels, how perfect this story matches your life. If not, take a bike ride together using encouraging, supportive words as you enjoy this activity together."

Harold Finds a Voice by Courtney Dicmas (Child's Play)

"Talking begins with hearing sounds all around you. Use this book to encourage sound repetition, vocabulary, and talking."

One Gorilla: A Counting Book by Anthony Browne (Candlewick Press)

This is a wonderfully illustrated book of primates. Just as humans are different, other primates have different facial features, shades and personalities. I think this is a great book to talk about the differences among the family of primates - including us!

ABC versus 123 by Mike Boldt (Harper Collins)

This book naturally lends itself for adult and child to count the different objects together. More importantly, there are subtle aspects in the book that encourage parents to talk to their child in more depth. For example on the page with the 16 pigs, if you only count the pigs holding onto the tethers for the giant pig balloon, you will end up with only 15 pigs. But a child may miss the fact that the balloon is a pig also albeit a pig balloon. There are also some vocabulary words that parents can discuss with young children as well: versus, magnificent, measure, add, subtract and assistance. The ending also leaves room for adult and child to extend the story and have a discussion about what will happen now that a color has joined the story."

I Am the World by Charles R. Smith, jr. (Atheneum Books for Young Readers)

"Families, or parent/child could talk about where they are from and what their heritage represents. Take pictures, print them out and write a sentence of who each person in your family is. Find a globe or a map and find the country your family is from. Print out a map, take a piece of string, start with your city and pin it to the country your mom and dad came from."

Bully by Laura Vaccaro Seeger (Roaring Brook Press)

"After reading this book, caregivers can talk about feelings and how the characters in the book feel. Parents can talk to their kids about the importance of saying "sorry" and treating each other in a way that is nice and friendly. Parents and children can look into mirrors and practice saying mean and nice things together. They should observe how their facial expressions change when they are mean and nice. Parents can talk to their children about what it means to be a good friend."

Rain! by Linda Ashman, illustrated by Christian Robinson (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

"This story might lead to a discussion on how different people may have different feelings and views of the same thing - the rain, the day's news, etc. When we're in a bad mood, how can we change our perspective? Would you be sad or grumpy if it was a rainy day and you couldn't go out and play? Would knowing you could walk in the rain to a cafe for cocoa and cookies change your mood? Take a look at the illustrations and notice the faces of the other characters. Are their moods influenced by the boy or the man? The cut paper and paint illustrations would also be fun to try and replicate."

Tea Rex by Molly Idle (Viking Juvenile)

"Tea Rex is a cross between a dino story and a manners book. While the narrator discusses the proper way of hosting a tea in the text, the pictures show the actuality of a dinosaur attempting to share tea in the parlor. The text/picture combination encourages discussion of what's going on in the background versus what's being said. Children will exclaim at the perilous events taking place behind the words and be able to vocalize what they see happening as the narrator ignores the unfolding disaster."

What Will Hatch? by Jennifer Ward, illustrated by Susie Ghahremani (Bloomsbury Kids (Walker Children's Books))

"This book expands a child's knowledge of different animals that hatch from eggs. An adult and child may then want to explore more about these animals such as a platypus. In addition, at the end of the book, the author has included information about chickens. A parent could show a child a real egg and talk about this commonly found grocery item. A trip to a local farm or to a neighbor that raises chickens is also a possibility."

Inside Outside by Lizi Boyd (Chronicle Books)

"Learning Words: while there are no words in the book, the illustrations lend themselves to description. Adults will find themselves using interesting words to describe the pictures. Telling Stories: This is an open-ended wordless book, countless stories could be told about the play the child is participating in, what the animals are doing, and what they can see through the die-cut holes. Additionally, there are many opportunities for open-ended questions and prediction."

Healthy Kids by May Ajmera (Global Fund for Children)

"This book promotes healthy kids and using the correct wording to promote that. How healthy is to children around the world is supported through the photographs on each page."

That Is Not a Good Idea by Mo Willems (Balzer + Bray)

"There's a couple of different levels of talking in this title--the Hen and the Fox talk to each other, and then the Chicks watching the movie comment on the action they see. This is a great book for practicing the predicting and sequencing parts of narrative skills, as children make sense of the action "on the screen" and then figure out why the chicks react the way they do. They could draw their own picture, then draw an audience, and with word bubbles the adult could add in what the child wanted the audience to say."

Night Light by Nicholas Blechman (Orchard Books)

"The question/answer format of Night Light sets up an automatic guessing game between reader and child that elicits questions, answers, and conversations."

Have You Seen My New Blue Socks? by Eve Bunting, illustrated by Sergio Ruzzier (Clarion Books)

"After reading, parent and child could go back through the book and pick out rhyming words using both the printed words and the pictures. Then, make up their own rhymes - the sillier, the better!"

Where Do You Look? by Marthe Jocelyn, illustrated by Nell Jocelyn (Tundra Books)

"While reading this book, it sparks conversation between the parent and child. Children can be prompted to think of other places they can find things, like a trunk could be found in the attic storing things or on an elephant, as the book suggests, but it can also be found on a car. After reading the book, children and parents can think of other homonyms and how they can be used. They can also play I-Spy together to find new words and things the child is already knows about."

Ribbit! by Rodrigo Folgueira, illustrated by Poly Bernatene (Alfred A. Knopf)

"Packed with lots of dialogue and questions, children will mostly get a kick out what this little pig says. Why does he Ribbit and Tweet? Not only does this title encourage talking about what is going on in the story (by the story prompting this), but it also has children answer the question they hear most, what does a (in this case) Pig say?"

SING

Wee Rhymes: Baby's First Poetry Book by Jane Yolen; illustrated by Jane Dyer (Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers)

"The adults will read or sing the rhymes to the children. Sometimes they may soothe the child or initiate play with the baby. Some adults may choose to create their own songs or rhymes which are personalized for their family members. Most of the rhymes in this book are short and very accessible. They can be memorized easily. The illustrations model reading for the child and the adult. The collection of rhymes evokes laughter, playfulness, calming, and concepts to be learned. Some of the poems provide opportunities for finger plays or action rhymes. Many will become favorites that will be repeated over and over and some may only be read a few times. The variety of the rhymes offers many choices for a joy-filled experience between the child and the adults in his or her life on a daily basis."

Old Mikamba Had a Farm by Rachel Isadora (Nancy Paulsen Books)

"Old Mikamba is a version of the very familiar children's song "Old McDonald Had a Farm." It lends itself to being sung as it is read out loud!"

Itsy Bitsy Spider by Rebecca Emberley and Ed Emberley (Two Little Birds, an imprint of Peter Randall Publisher)

"The Itsy Bitsy Spider promotes hearing sounds by including rhyming words. It promotes learning words because of the interesting word "waterspout" and directional words such as up, down, and out."

Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes and Other Action Rhymes by Gabriella Buckingham (Anness Publishing Ltd.)

"This book supports hearing sounds by highlighting rhymes that are fun to say and learn by heart."

Lullaby: (For a Black Mother) by Langston Hughes; illustrated by Sean Qualls (Harcourt Children's Books)

"This excels at encouraging children to hear the smaller discrete sounds in words. For the very youngest child the vocabulary words of necklace, diamond and lullaby might be new."

Marc Brown's Playtime Rhymes: A Treasury for Families to Learn and Play Together by Marc Brown (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)

"Marc Brown writes that he collected over 350 finger plays and he choose his favorites for this book with the goal of introducing children to poetry. The rhymes in this book can be chanted or sung and Brown provides illustrations of hand movements to accompany each rhyme. *Many of the rhymes in the book can be sung aloud to a familiar tune or recited in a chant. The actions to the rhyme are all illustrated, making it easy for adults to learn and teach their children."

My Mother Goose by David McPhail (Roaring Brook Press)

"Learning traditional nursery rhymes helps build comprehension skills, vocabulary, background knowledge for text to text connections when they learn how to read later on and phonological awareness when children hear the smaller sounds in words."

Maria Had a Little Llama/Maria tenía una llamita by Angela Dominguez (Henry Holt & Co.)

"They could sing the two versions presented in the book and then sing Mary Had a Little Lamb. After singing, they could discuss the differences between the versions. If they're feeling very creative, they could make up their own song using their names and animals or a fanciful version: Sammy has a giant dinosaur."

Nighty Night, Cooper by Laura Numeroff; illustrated by Lynn Munsinger (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

"The whole concept of this book is about singing. Little Cooper isn't tired and asks for a song. Mama sings original songs to the tune of very familiar ones. The best part is that the tune is given to the reader. Once a song is done, Cooper asks for another and at the end, he sings one to his Mama."

"The parent and child could start making up songs together. It is a great chance for joint attention and silly song making."

Backyard Theater Presents Pest in Show by Victoria Jamieson (Dial)

"Pest in Show lends itself to readers theater wonderfully. An adult and child could make Fly and Ladybug sock puppets and act out the story and of course, sing in the songs from the musical."

Old Mac Donald Had a Farm by Anne Kennedy (Little Golden Book)

"Poor Old Mac Donald. His farm is over run by animals. There are pigs in the bath tub, donkeys on the sofa, and turkeys in the bed. Children will laugh at Kennedy's illustrations while singing along to this familiar tune."

Storm Song by Nancy Viau and Gynux (Two Lions)

"Since the story is told through rhythm and rhyme, parents and children can use household items (pots, pans, flashlights) to bring the story to life. In the middle of the book, where mom sings songs like Row, Row, Row Your Boat, the children can pipe in, adding new songs they've learned. Also, in today's technological environment, we often forget how to act and what to do when the electricity is out. In Storm Song, the lights go out and the children and mom sing and play, and then eventually nap together on the sofa. Perhaps, other Lights Out evenings can follow where the family brainstorms fun alternatives that require no electricity."

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Pete the Cat: The Wheels on the Bus by James Dean (Harper Collins)

"Many people LOVE Pete the Cat for his catchy tunes. He is easy to sing along with and kids actively participate during Pete the Cat books. All of the books in this series have been wonderful, but I really like the wheels on the bus version because kids know the tune and they can quickly jump in and start singing along. Pete the Cat is easy to dance to as well. Dancing is an easy way to incorporate play in your reading time as well as singing."

Sing by Joe Raposo, illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld (Henry Hold and Co., LLC)

"Raposo's 1971 song encourages children to sing, even if they don't think they're good singers and Lichtenheld's sweet illustrations add humor to the lyrics. A CD is included and the song has been translated into Spanish...After reading...and singing "Sing" together, an adult and child could brain-storm the other songs they know and have a sing-along. Or they could write their own song and illustrate it or illustrate a favorite song."

"Listen to the song together, talk about the feelings in the book and how those feelings change, talk about how the words of the song are not about a bird but they could be about anything."

PLAY

The Silver Button by Bob Graham (Candlewick Press)

"In one minute of time, lots of things are happening. Jonathan takes his first step, and Mom is playing the pennywhistle, Jodie is drawing Alice is pushing things through the fence, Joseph is avoiding cracks in the sidewalk a soldier is hugging goodbye and so on, until we expand beyond the house and neighborhood to the bay where a tanker is leaving for China. Lots of actions are portrayed as taking place in one minute and children can do or pretend to be all of them."

Nowhere Box by Sam Zuppardi (Candlewick Press)

"Find a refrigerator box and make a space for your child to use as his getaway box. Or better yet, you make it a reading getaway box for the 2 of you, to read together or play."

Windblown by Edouard Manceau (Owlkids Books)

"Windblown is an extremely playful story that encourages readers to engage with the text and illustrations. By imagining what the different scraps of paper might turn into and seeing the results, children are reminded that play can be productive, and the possibilities are endless!"

Anything Is Possible by Giulia Belloni; illustrated by Marco Trevisan (Owlkids Books)

"Children and adults can discuss the two types - sheep vs. wolf - and the advantages and disadvantages to each. This book could also be used as a segue into a child's own imaginative play."

The Long, Long Line by Tomoko Ohmura (Owlkids Books)

"The Long, Long Line is a playful story all about animals waiting in line to take a ride on a whale! Play is a strong theme running throughout the book - playing with others, playing with dialogue, and playing with numbers."

Doggone Feet! by Leslie Helakosi (Boyd's Mill Press)

"The tongue twisting chaotic scenes that ensue when the dog encounters a new addition to the family make for fun predictable scenarios and the internal rhyme allows for familiar sound repetition as well as story. It also builds knowledge by enticing kids to count by twos and to understand animal behavior."

I'm a Frog by Mo Willems (Hyperion Books for Children)

"The tongue twisting chaotic scenes that ensue when the dog encounters a new addition to the family make for fun predictable scenarios and the internal rhyme allows for familiar sound repetition as well as story. It also builds knowledge by enticing kids to count by twos and to understand animal behavior."

I'm a Frog by Mo Willems (Hyperion Books for Children)

"This book would be so fun to act out with your children. You could take turns being Piggie or Elephant Gerald. A second extension would be to pretend to be other animals. Ask

pertinent questions like, what does a duck say, how does a kangaroo hop etc. Pretend play is so important in developing a child's creative side."

Hiding Phil by Eric Barclay (Scholastic Press)

"This book supports the pre-reading skill of hearing sounds. Throughout the story there are a variety of noises to be heard. The kids make fun playing noises- 'whee!' and 'yippee!' They also express feelings of nervousness - 'uh- oh...', the dog barks- 'woof' and Phil even sneezes- 'AAAA- CHOO!'"

Sophie's Squash by Pat Zietlow Miller; illustrated by Ann Wilsdorf (Schwartz & Wade)

"An adult and child could visit a farmers' market to buy a squash and then talk about what they want to do with their squash. They could make their own doll and play with it together or they could work together to bake it with marshmallows and eat their squash for dinner."

Peck, Peck, Peck by Lucy Cousins (Candlewick)

"It would be very natural to take a walk around the house (or library.. or wherever) with the child and point out objects to peck (poke with a finger). Learning more about the habits and details of woodpeckers would be another fun extender. I showed my own child videos of woodpeckers pecking after sharing the story. We "peck, peck, peck, peck, pecked" around and I told him "I love, love, love, love, LOVE you." Such a delightful book!"

Wiggle by Taro Gomi (Chronicle Books)

"Because the illustrations are very simplified and a finger doesn't really look like a trunk, beak, or fang, an adult might want to find photographs of these animals in magazines to share with their little ones. After talking about the photos, they could cut wholes in the pictures and play with them."

Splash, Anna Hibiscus! by Atinuke; illustrated by Lauren Tobias (Walker Books Ltd.)

"Anna's whole family is depicted in this story. A family tree might help a child understand how everyone's related. After making Anna's family tree, the adult and child could make the child's family tree and compare."

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Romping Monsters, Stomping Monsters by Jane Yolen and Kelly Murphy (Candlewick Press)

"Two little monsters and their mother head to a crowded park for a day full of play. They join other monsters to chase bubbles, play ball, ride bikes, run in a three-legged race and more. By the end of their full day the play gets a little rough and feelings get hurt but mom makes everything better."

The Long, Long Line by Tomoko Ohmura (Owl Kids)

"After you have read the story together once, go back through and read the conversation between each of the animals in answer some of the questions they are asking each other. Why would the armadillo say it stinks when he stands behind a skunk? Who jumped the highest, the raccoon or the fox? Why is the sheep scared, who is standing behind the wolf? Can you guess what the elephant is going to step on as the bird welcomes the animals aboard."

Ding Dong! Gorilla! by Michelle Robinson (Peachtree)

I think it would be fun for parents and children to each pretend they are the gorilla and to find things to do inside or outside that would create crazy predicaments like in the story.

Parents could prompt the little ones to come up with a solution to the problems presented by a giant gorilla in the house.

Look What I Can Do! by Nancy Viau and Anna Vojtech (Abrams Books for Young Readers)

At storytime, *Look What I Can Do!* can be a calm ending to a busy day, but it can also be used to promote the practicing of gross and fine motor skills. The behaviors of the animal pairs can be easily imitated by adults and children. (For example: Leap like a frog, slither like a snake.) Used in this way, the story encourages movement and physical activity in a playful form which helps with coordination, self-control, and self-esteem. When done in pairs like the animals in the story, the fun is doubled!

Here Comes Firefighter Hippo by Jonathan London, illustrated by Gilles Eduar (Boyd's Mill Press)

"I think parents and children will be naturally drawn to play firefighter themselves through reading this book together, perhaps fashioning a truck out of a cardboard box and coming up with alternative play scenarios. I can well imagine parents and children wandering outside with a pretend hose (or real one) or perhaps a squirt bottle to put out fires in the garden."

Count the Monkeys by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Kevin Cornell (Disney Hyperion)

"This would be a great book to jump into counting and sorting games at home. Kids and parents could gather all the stuffed toys in the house and create a silly rendition of this story for themselves. They could also draw alternate illustrations of their own for the story line. "

"Parents and children can go around the house and look for 1 of something, 2 or something, 3 etc... Have children post the corresponding number near the items that match."

Steam Train, Dream Train by Sherry Duskey Rinker, illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld (Chronicle Books)

"At cleanup time, this story could provoke discussion of which train cars could carry away which of a child's toys. Would the crayons go in a boxcar? Do Legos travel in a hopper? Perhaps use a shoebox as a train car and transport the toys to their nighttime resting places."

Peep and Ducky by David Martin, illustrated by David Walker (Candlewick Press)

"This book is sure to encourage parents to take their children to the park to explore all the fun things Peep and Ducky did there during their playtime and picnic."

Mustache Baby by Bridget Heos (Clarion Books/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing)

"Make a mustache for the family and let them pretend to be a cop, cowboy, bank robber, bad guy. This can lead into a discussion about how your behavior can be both good and bad at times, and how you can choose your actions. Also, find different types of clothing around the house and pretend to be different characters. "

Peekaboo! by Taro Gomi (Chronicle Books)

"Although the concept for this book is not new or original, it is a good reminder that one of the first relationships a baby has with a book is as a toy. Babies will be able to play with this book and with their caregiver through reading the story. At the end adults can play peekaboo with their baby. They can also pretend to be different animals and teach their baby different animal sounds."

Phoebe and Digger by Tricia Springstubb and Jeff Newman (Candlewick)

"This book models independent imaginative playing while Mom is busy with a new baby...Interesting words are used throughout the book that boost vocabulary...The truck-loving child is a girl for once! I think the book encourages children of both sexes to play imaginatively with construction trucks of all kinds."

Windblown by Edouard Manceau, translated by Sarah Quinn (Owl Kids)

"The book skillfully shows how to make things out of the shapes and then encourages you to play with them too...the skill of telling stories is supported as child and adult can have conversations about what can be made out of these shapes....it would be great to send families home with their own set of these scraps of paper."

Tiger in My Soup by Kashmira Sheth, illustrated by Jeffrey Ebbeler (Peachtree)

"This story is about a young boy who wants his sister to read a book about tigers to him. When she doesn't the little boy's alphabet soup turns into an amazing tiger...the font in this book promotes print awareness and entices the child to see what the words say next as they float across the pages...pretend play would be a fun activity to do with the child after reading this book."

Penny and her Marble by Kevin Henkes (Greenwillow Books)

"While playing make believe Penny finds a shiny blue marble in her neighbor's yard and has a lot of anxiety over taking it. Penny's creative play is endearing...I think parent and child will be prompted to create make believe sessions of their own. The gentle lesson and gentle parenting in this book are great modeling for both parent and child."

The World is Waiting for You by Barbara Kerley (National Geographic)

"Beautiful photographs lead the story through all the activities that you may want to do as a child and then as an adult. Playing in the mud may lead you to be an archeologist... [The] book shows a variety of choices and may lead into talking about what else do you like to do now that you might want to do when you grow up."

Super Hair-o and the Barber of Doom by John Rocco (Disney-Hyperion)

"Super Hair-o easily segues into rambunctious superhero pretend play. An adult and child might want to make super hero costumes, like Rocco's cape, first or just jump straight to playing."

How To by Julie Morstad (Simply Read Books)

"This book takes an imaginative look at how to do a wide variety of wonderful things in a playful way....Try some of the activities and see if they work. Do them together. Are you braver? Did you disappear? "

Niño Wrestles the World by Yuyi Morales (Roaring Brook Press)

"This entire book exemplifies play and using your imagination. Not only can kids relate to the characters that Nino wrestles, but they could also use their own imagination and wrestle characters later.....Parents could tell the legends of the characters Nino wrestles."

Hooray Parade by Barbara Joose, illustrated by Hyewon Yum (Viking)

"A little girl is having a fun day when her Gramma comes over to play. There's a surprise in Gramma's basket- a hooray parade. Gramma makes different animal puppets dance behind a sheet for the girl as she recites a fun rhyme for each animal... After reading...together, children can enjoy putting on their own puppet hooray parade with different stuffed animals or puppets. At the end of the story, Gramma and the little girl dress up in clown suits and put on their own parade, which would be fun to act out in a classroom or storytime with many children."