

# SUMMER BOOKLIST

Reach  
Out  
& Read®



Reading diverse and inclusive books is a wonderful way to allow children to see themselves reflected, learn about other people and their experiences, imagine themselves in another place or time, imagine themselves in another person's experiences, recognize our similarities, and celebrate differences.

Reading is essential. It provides the opportunity to teach our children about kindness, compassion and empathy for others, and that diversity of stories matter. All kids should be able to see themselves as the stars of their own stories. As there is not one type of child, there should not be one type of story.

## BIRTH-12 MONTHS

*Books with Bumps: Counting* by Flying Frog  
*Ocean* by Charles Reasoner  
*Baby Faces Smile!* by Roberta Grobel Intrater  
*Let's Play: Let's Have Fun!* by Scholastic  
*Baby Food* by Stefanie Paige Wieder  
*If You're Happy and You Know It* by Annie Kubler  
*I Love You Like Sunshine* by Mariana Glusman MD  
*Baby Touch and Feel: Splish! Splash!*  
by DK Publishing

## BOARD BOOKS / 1-3 YEARS

*Bugs* by Andrew McMeel Publishing  
*My Day* by Rhea Wallace  
*Time to...: Stroll* by Hope Carwell  
*Farm* by Page Publications  
*Munch, Crunch, Snacks and Lunch*  
by Anna W. Bardaus  
*What Do You See: Around Town* by Chosen Spot  
*Leo Can Swim* by Anna McQuinn  
*Mindful Tots: Tummy Ride* by Whitney Stewart  
*My Little Busy Day: Cooking With You*  
by Ellen Whisenant  
*Up to My Knees!* by Grace Lin

## PICTURE BOOKS / 3-5 YEARS

*Happy Dreamer* by Peter H. Reynolds  
*Jabari Jumps* by Gaia Cornwall  
*Little Night* by Yuyi Morales  
*Summer (Seasons)* by Alie Busby

## TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

- Use different voices to engage your child.
- Ask questions about the story to grow their curiosity and memory.
- Encourage involvement when reading aloud by inviting your child to turn pages when it's time.
- Repeat the story – children love to hear the same story, it helps them learn, and it's a sign they are connecting with the book.
- Let your child choose what to read. It may be the same story on repeat, but it's a sign they are engaged and enjoying the time spent together.



## TIPS FOR CHOOSING DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE BOOKS

Look for books that:

- Include characters of color, LGBTQ+ characters, or characters with disabilities — especially books where these are main characters
- Are written or illustrated by a person of color or an LGBTQ+ person
- Feature a person of color on the cover. The characters on the book cover should accurately reflect the characters in the book
- Can serve as both “mirrors” and “windows” — books in which children can see themselves reflected and in which they can learn about others
- Ensure that storylines do not simply repeat the same story we always hear. Do all your books featuring black characters focus on slavery? Are all your LGBTQ+ books coming out stories?
- Feature diverse characters that are not only about race or prejudice

Avoid books that:

- Contain hurtful racial or ethnic stereotypes, or images (e.g. Little House on the Prairie or The Five Chinese Brothers)
- Focus on the 5 F's (food, fashion, folklore, festivals, and famous people). While books like these can provide a window into different cultures and traditions, it is important to ensure that the books you select do not reinforce stereotypes or overgeneralize individuals or groups of people.

Be sure to also select books that feature diverse groups in everyday settings.

Tips adapted from Lee & Low Books, [www.leeandlow.com/educators/articles/checklist-8-steps-to-creating-a-diverse-book-collection](http://www.leeandlow.com/educators/articles/checklist-8-steps-to-creating-a-diverse-book-collection)