

## **Diane Snowball's suggested booklist for reading to the Foundation Years**

These books are very suitable to read aloud in the first year at school, particularly if the children have not been read to with this type of literature. Children to want the books to be read over and over again – rich language with rhyme, rhythm and repetition and interesting illustrations. They should be read aloud many times just as children would request them at home. Soon children will be reading them independently even if it is just because they remember the words so it's a good idea to have multiple copies. These books provide much richer reading than 8 page books without much of a storyline and less interesting illustrations and most of the paperback versions are not more expensive than the 8 page books.

The books also introduce children to some of the best authors and illustrators from Australia and overseas.

### **Eric Carle:**

The Very Busy Spider  
The Very Quiet Cricket  
The Very Hungry Caterpillar  
Rooster's off to See the World  
Do You Want to be my Friend?  
The Tiny Seed

(Other books by Eric Carle are very suitable for independent reading when children are first starting to read by themselves because they have even simpler language and with repetitive phrases and sentences. These include titles such as Have You Seen my Cat? Do You Want to be my Friend?; Today is Monday)

### **Mem Fox:**

Hello Baby!  
\*Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes  
\*Where Is The Green Sheep?  
Sleepy Bears  
Boo to a Goose  
\*Time for Bed  
Night Noises  
\*Goodnight Sleep Tight  
Hattie and the Fox  
Harriet, you'll Drive me Wild  
\*Boo to a Goose  
\*Zoo-looking  
\*Nellie Belle

### **Pamela Allen:**

(Children will love the rhythm of the language in Pamela Allen's books)

\*Bertie and the Bear  
Shhh! Little Mouse  
\*Who Sank the Boat?  
A Lion in the Night (some very young children are frightened by the lion so think about whether this one suits your child)  
Waddle Giggle Gargle  
Mr Magee Goes to Sea (It's fabulous when children can meet the same character in lots of books, like they can with Mr McGee)  
Mr McGee and the Blackberry Jam  
Mr McGee and the Biting Flea  
Mr McGee and the Big Bag of Bread  
Mr McGee and the Perfect Nest  
Fancy That

I Wish I Had a Pirate Suit

Mr Archimedes' Bath (this one is not as suitable for pre-school children)

There are many other titles and they are all excellent so when children start school they will love all of them.

### **Eric Hill:**

\*Where's Spot? (There are many other titles about Spot the Dog and it develops a sense of character in stories when children meet the same character in several books.)

### **Alison Lester:**

(There are many other great titles suitable for 4-8 year-olds so it is important to introduce children to this prolific and popular Australian author/illustrator and Australian Children's Laureate.)

\*Kissed by the Moon

Roar

Noni the Pony

There are also four other board books for babies - Crashing and Splashing, Happy and Sad, Bumping and Bouncing, Bibs and Boots.

(Alison has written many other excellent books for children to enjoy when they are reading or are ready for read aloud with more details. These include titles such as Clive Eats Alligators; Rosie Sips Spiders; Tessa Snaps Snakes; Ernie Dances to the Didgeridoo; Magic Beach; My Farm; Imagine; Are We There Yet? Her illustrations have so much detail that children continue to notice items each time the books are read to them.)

### **Janet and Allan Ahlberg:**

\*Each Peach Pear Plum

Peepo!

Peek-a-Boo!

(When children start school they will also love other titles such as The Jolly Postman and The Jolly Christmas Postman which both have pockets containing letters and cards as part of the stories. Burglar Bill, Funnybones and The Happy Family series are all great books for grades 1 and 2.)

### **John Burningham:**

(John Burningham's books have a 'softer' feel about them, particularly because of the style of his illustrations. After meeting these titles pre-school they will love reading many of his other titles later, such as Cannonball Simp; Edwardo; The Magic Bed. The Shopping Basket is a great title for the first year at school. His books encourage imagination.)

\*Mt. Gumpy's Outing

\*Mr. Gumpy's Motor Car

Avocado Baby

The Way to the Zoo

Oi, Get off our Train

Would you Rather ....

### **Lynley Dodd:**

\*Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy (The repetitive and rhyming language in this title makes it a very popular book with very young children. There are many other great titles about the dog Hairy Maclary and his animal friends which children can then enjoy when they are ready for longer stories: Hairy Maclary's Bone, Hairy Maclary and Zachary Quack, Hairy Maclary Scattercat, Hairy Maclary Hide and Seek, Hairy Maclary's Rumpus at the Vet, Hairy Maclary's Show Business, Hairy Maclary's Hat Tricks, Hairy Maclary's Catawaul Caper, Hairy Maclary's Bone, Slinky Malinky Early Bird, Slinky Malinky, Catflaps, and Scarface Claw)

Hairy Maclary at Donaldson's Dairy is also available as an interactive Q book from the App Store.



### **Bill Martin Jnr :**

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you See? (with Eric Carle)

Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What do you See? (with Eric Carle)

\*Baby Bear, Baby Bear, What do you See? (with Eric Carle)

### **Michael Rosen:**

We're Going on Bear Hunt

(This is a fabulous story to act out and will introduce children to an author whose other stories and poetry they will love when they are older.)

### **Dr. Seuss:**

The Cat in the Hat

Green Eggs and Ham

One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish

Hop on Pop

Fox in Sox

(The fun with sounds of language makes these titles popular with young children, but they are longer stories than most other picture books for this age group. So introduce them when children are used to being read to for longer periods of time. Then are many other titles suitable for years 4-8 approx.

Note: All of the Dr. Seuss books are available as animated movies on Youtube, with the words from the books being read with great expression.)

### **Pat Hutchins:**

Rosie's Walk

Good-night Owl!

Where Oh Where is Rosie's Chick?

(Other great titles by this author for 4 – 8 year-olds are Don't Forget the Bacon!, The Doorbell Rang, Titch, Ten Red Apples, The Surprise Party, The Wind Blew, The Very Worst Monster, You'll Soon Grow into them Titch, Tidy Titch, Happy Birthday Sam. Note that *The Doorbell Rang* is available on YouTube.)

### **Mike Brownlow:**

Ten Little Pirates

Ten Little Dinosaurs

Ten Little Princesses

### **Julie Donaldson:**

Toddle Waddle (This book is available on YouTube)

The Gruffalo (There are other titles about Gruffalo and it is a satisfying book experience to find a known character in a new book.

Snail and the Whale

Room on a Broom (This book has more text but it's lots of fun. This author has written a large number of books young children enjoy when they are reading independently.)

### **Other books and authors:**

\*Goodnight Moon - Margaret Wise Brown

Runaway Bunny - Margaret Wise Brown

Five little monkeys jumping on the bed - Eileen Christelow

Dear Zoo - Rod Campbell

\*I Went Walking - Sue Williams

\*This Little Piggy Went Dancing - Margaret Wild

Guess How Much I Love You - Sam McBratney

Sheep in a Jeep - Nancy Shaw

Are You my Mother? - P.D. Eastman

Harry the Dirty Dog – Gene Zion (There are many other titles about Harry, another opportunity to meet a character in many books.)

Where the Wild Things Are - Maurice Sendak (be sure your children won't be frightened by the 'monsters')

My Cat Likes to Hide in Boxes - Eve Sutton

The Wrong Book – Nick Bland (Also available on YouTube and as award winning interactive app)

The Lion in the Meadow - Margaret Mahy (a fabulous author of books for all ages)

The Tiger who Came to Tea - Judith Kerr

One is a Snail and Ten is a Crab (a brilliant book about numbers) – April Pulley Sayre and Jeff Sayre

Also go to the website of Trevor Cairney [www.Trevorcairney.com](http://www.Trevorcairney.com) which will keep you up-to-date with books as well as articles about reading, writing, literacy etc. Trevor's blog is one of the best for parents and he is Australian!

### **Books available on a computer or iPad**

Some books are available online on various sites, such as the following:

Storytime Anytime is available on Youtube. In this series the librarian from the Wodonga Library (VIC) reads a picture book. The titles include Hairy Maclary and books by Pamela Allen.

[www.StorylineOnline.net](http://www.StorylineOnline.net) -On this website actors read popular children's books, suitable for a variety of age groups.

### **Nursery Rhymes and Songs**

It is also essential that children hear many nursery rhymes and songs that they will eventually join in with after hearing them several times. There are many free websites where you can find these:

[www.kidspot.com.au](http://www.kidspot.com.au)

This site has the words for the most popular nursery rhymes. Go to kidspot >activity corner>nursery rhymes

[bussongs.com/](http://bussongs.com/)

This site has the words and the music for over 2000 children's songs and nursery rhymes and you can download both and print the words.

[www.mothersgooseclub.com](http://www.mothersgooseclub.com) This site has nursery rhymes (the rhymes being shown on the screen and a voiceover reading them), video clips of nursery rhymes being sung and acted out and children's songs being sung. Adobe Flash is required so you cannot view this on an iPad.

[www.songsforteaching.com](http://www.songsforteaching.com) This site has the lyrics plus someone singing the rhymes.

On Youtube there are several suitable sites for nursery rhymes, finger plays and songs. These include:

Muffin Songs

Super Simple Songs

CVS 3D Rhymes

MagicboxEngRhy

Childrenrhymes.