

## Vocabulary

Help kids learn specific words for things and ideas.

**Actual Size** by Steve Jenkins

See how big or small these wild animals really are.

**Alice the Fairy** by David Shannon

She's a creative girl who knows all kinds of magical words.

**Can You See What I See? Cool Collections** by Walter Wick

Can you spy all the robots, dinosaurs and letters?

**Do Frogs Have Fur?**



**A Book About Coats and Coverings** by Michael Dahl

Laugh and learn with these fun facts. Picture Window Books

**If I Were a Lion** by Sarah Weeks

Learn lots of adjectives and attitude in this smart and visually rich book.

**Inside Mouse, Outside Mouse** by Lindsay Barrett George

Simple and complex, these mice teach compare and contrast on their journey.

**Look-Alikes Jr.: The More You Look, the More You See**

by Joan Steiner

Is that a chair or a mitten? You look, see and be amazed!

**Robots Slither** by Ryan Ann Hunter

Learn all about what robots can do.

**Swan Harbor: A Nature Counting Book** by Laura Ranklin

So much more than counting, explore coastal life in this richly illustrated book.

**Secret Seahorse** by Stella Blackstone

Play hide and seek with seahorse as you learn about coral reefs and all sorts of sea life.

**Spicy Hot Colors/Colores Picantes** by Sherry Shahan

Learn Spanish culture and colors in this vividly illustrated book.

**Surprising Sharks** by Nicola Davies

Fun facts fill this book with bright, detailed drawings.

## Sound Sensitivity / Phonemic Awareness

Rhyming books help kids learn that words are made up of smaller parts.

This helps them to sound out words when they are ready to read.

**And to Think That We Thought We'd Never Be Friends**

by Mary Ann Hoberman

Learn how to make friends in this great rhyming tale of a neighborhood parade.

**Ants in My Pants** by Wendy Mould

Jacob comes up with lots of silly excuses not to go shopping with his mom.

**Bubble Gum, Bubble Gum** by Lisa Wheeler

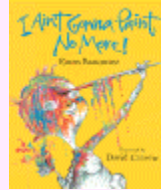
Yuck! Who gets stuck?

**Castles, Caves and Honeycombs** by Linda Ashman

Try to guess the animals that live in each house.

**Clara Caterpillar** by Pamela Duncan

In this story about hidden talents, learn how caterpillars change into butterflies and count the 'C' words.



**I Ain't Gonna Paint No More!** by Karen Beaumont

To the tune of "It Ain't Gonna Rain No More," one creative kid floods his world with color, painting first the walls, then the ceiling, and then himself. Harcourt Children's Books

**Monsters Party All Night Long** by Adam J. B. Lane

The count is having a party, and you're invited to fill in the fun rhymes.

**My Little Sister Hugged an Ape** by Bill Grossman

His sister will hug anything, A to Z!

**One Dark Night** by Lisa Wheeler

In this book, slightly scary but joyously brilliant in the end, follow Mole and Mouse into the woods.

**Rattletrap Car** by Phyllis Root

Enjoy making creative car sounds on a family road trip.

**Roller Coaster** by Marla Frazee

Adventurous kids will love this minute-by-minute replay of a roller coaster ride.

**Some Dogs Do** by Jez Alborough

What can dogs do? Really???



**Summer Sun Risin'** by W. Nickola-Lisa

A young boy spends a summer day helping his family on their farm—feeding animals, mowing hay and picking vegetables. Lee and Low Books

**What Did You Put in Your Pocket?** by Beatrice Schenk de Regniers

Have fun with this cumulative tale featuring lots of word play.

**Where is Bear?** by Lesléa Newman

Play hide-and-seek with bear and friends.

**Why Do Kittens Purr?** by Marion Dane Bauer

If you've ever wondered why, here's a sweet introduction to animal behavior.

**Wiggle** by Doreen Cronin

You might giggle as you wiggle all through this fun book.

## Narrative Skills

Help children understand and retell stories by using repeating, predicting, sequencing and summarizing questions to talk about books.

## Sequencing

With these books, ask questions like:

'What happened first? And then?

What happened in the end?'

**Arrowhawk** by Lola Schaefer

A hawk is injured and struggles to survive in this true story.

**Calabash Cat and His Amazing Journey** by James Rumford

This is an African tale of wisdom and perspective.

**Cat Who Came for Tacos** by Diana Star Helmer

Learn manners and Spanish phrases with a silly cat.

**Clara and Asha** by Eric Rohmann

Can Clara fly? No, but with her friend, Clara can do all kinds of things most girls only dream of.

**Dig!** by Andrea Zimmerman

Can you help Mr. Rally remember the five jobs he has to do with his big yellow digging machine?

**Halibut Jackson** by David Lucas

A boy learns it's good to be different.

**Hammer Soup** by Ingrid and Dieter Schubert

Here's a fresh telling of familiar legends and life lessons.

**Just Enough and Not Too Much** by Kaethe Zemach

What will Simon keep?

**Miss Bridie Chose a Shovel!** by Leslie Connor

This cumulative story wraps a history lesson around a great message.

**On My Way to Buy Eggs** by Chih-Yuan Chen

Here's a simple story from Taiwan about an imaginative girl and her trip to the corner store.

**Red Book** by Barbara Lehman

A little girl gets lost in this wordless picture book filled with adventure.

**Send It!** by Don Carter

Follow a package from mail to delivery in this brightly colored look at postal service.

**Setting the Turkeys Free** by W. Nikola-Lisa

Watch as a boy creates a very exciting and crafty story.

**Swimming with the Dolphins** Lambert Davis

A girl and her mother have a very special day.

Ask a librarian for help finding these books and other materials for 4 and 5 year-olds.

**Tracks in the Snow** by Wong Herbert Yee

Follow this girl to find lots of cute creatures and a cozy ending.

**Trucker** by Brenda Weatherby

Does Wesley really drive his father's big rig?

**We're Going on a Picnic!** by Pat Hutchins

Hen, Duck and Goose are going to have a picnic. What happened to all the food?

## Repeating

With these books, ask questions like:

'What does he always say?

Can you help me tell that part of the story?'

**Bear: An American Folk Song** by Kenneth Spengler

Girl meets bear in this great call-and-repeat book.

**First Day of Winter** by Denise Fleming

Help the forest animals build a perfect snowman.

**There's Only One of Me!** by Pat Hutchins

Enjoy a great birthday party with a stepfamily.

**What! Cried Granny: An Almost Bedtime Story** by Kate Lum

This funny bedtime story is a tall tale about a grandmother who will do everything it takes to get her grandson to sleep.

## Predicting

With these books, ask open-ended questions:

'What's going to happen next?'

'How will that work?'

**Cat Up a Tree** by John and Ann Hasset

Cats, cats and more cats! Who will Nana Quimby call next?

**Duck on a Bike** by David Shannon

Moo! Baa! Oink! This is what the farm animals say when they see Duck riding a bike. But will they want to join in?

**Leaf Man** by Lois Ehlert

Come along on a journey with a man made of leaves.

**The Teddy Bear** by David McPhail

Who will find a little boy's lost teddy bear? This is a wonderful story about sharing and compassion.

**What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?** by Steven Jenkins

Did you know that some fish have four eyes? Learn lots of fascinating animal facts in this award-winning book.

## Summarizing

With these books, ask questions like:

'How did that happen?'

'Why did she do that?'

**Big Moon Tortilla** by Joy Cowley

Grandmother offers wise words of advice from a Native American proverb about how to deal with problems.

**Big Sister, Little Sister** by Charlotte Zolotow

Does a big sister really *need* a little sister?

**Elizabeti's Doll** by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen

You'll never guess what this doll looks like!

**Leon and Bob** by Simon James

Who-and *where*- is Bob? Find out in this sweet story of friendship.

**Photographer Mole** by Dennis Haseley

What is mole missing?



**Skippyjon Jones** by Judith Byron Schachner

Learn some Spanish when a busy cat's imagination goes wild! Penguin Books

**Widget** by Lyn Rossiter McFarland

What's a stray dog to do when he tries to find a home in a house full of cats?

## Letter Knowledge

These alphabet books help kids learn letters and beginning sounds in fun, interactive ways.

**A is for Salad** by Mike Lester

For kids who already know the ABC's, this unconventional alphabet book will bring lots of smiles.

**All Aboard ABC** by Doug Magee

For every child who loves trains, this book is filled with train vocabulary and great photos.

**Artful Alphabet** by Martina Jirankova-Limbrick

See if you can find the big and little letters, and all the sound-alike objects.

**Dog from Arf! Arf! To ZZZZZZ**

Guess what's happening in these great dog photos.

**Ellsworth's Extraordinary Electric Ears...** by Valorie Fisher

This 'I Spy...' book will keep you searching for hours.

**Firefighters A to Z** by Chris Demarest

This is a great rhyming book that teaches about firefighters.

**I Stink!** by Kate and Jim Mullan

Learn the ABC's of a New York City garbage truck's morning meal.

**Zoop: An Animal Alphabet** by Gianna Marino

Watch what happens to this bowl of alphabet soup. Looks like some sneaky animals are trying to hide...

For more great books, visit [www.sdcl.org](http://www.sdcl.org).

Best Books  
for 4's and 5's  
Books and Ideas  
to Help Children Get Ready to Read



Especially Great for Interaction  
We all learn best  
when we are asked to join in the fun.

**Gigantic! How Big Were the Dinosaurs?** by Patrick O'Brien

A dinosaur bigger than a fire truck? Enjoy learning about how big they really were.

**Hello, Hello!** by Miriam Schlein

Learn how animals greet each other in this fun book of facts.

**Knock, Knock! Who's There?** by Tad Hills

Develop a preschool sense of humor with silly visuals and word play.

**My Somebody Special** by Sarah Weeks

Who's picking up the kids after a day at childcare?

**Old MacDonald Had a Woodshop** by Lisa Shulman

Laugh while making the sound effects in this twist on the classic nursery song.

**Shark in the Park** by Nick Sharratt

Practice left and right in this great action-filled book.

**T-Rex** by Vivian French

Questions lead to a rich discussion as Grandfather walks through a dinosaur exhibit with his curious grandson.

**What Are You So Grumpy About?** by Tom Lichtenheld

This one ranges from goofy to gross.

**Who Needs That Nose?** by Karen Clemens Warrick

Have fun with this animal guessing game told in riddle style.

Created by San Diego County Library Youth Services

