



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HELP PREPARE CHILDREN FOR SCHOOL BY READING ALOUD TO THEM

Reading aloud is the best way to ensure that your child will learn to read on his own and develop a love for reading and books. The more parents read to their children, the better readers they will become. By reading aloud to your child, you plant seeds that can grow into a lifelong interest in reading. Also, you are showing your child you value spending time with him by sharing a story, a Mother Goose rhyme, or a poem.

10 Suggested Books to Read with Your Child

- **Ten, Nine Eight** – by Molly Bang. This bedtime counting book follows a young girl and her father through the ritual of going to bed. Soothing and lush illustrations accompany text.
- **Madeline** – by Ludwig Bemelmans. This beloved story takes 12 little girls and their teacher, Miss Clavel, on many adventures, and introduces one of the most famous of all storybook characters.
- **Goodnight Moon** – by Margaret Wise. This popular story encapsulates a small rabbit’s bedtime ritual of saying goodnight to all of his friends in “the great green room.” Charming illustrations are as memorable as the text.
- **The Very Hungry Caterpillar** – by Eric Carle. Follow this hungry caterpillar as he eats everything from one apple to five oranges and is still hungry. Colorful illustrations tell this tale of a caterpillar turning into a butterfly.
- **Harold and the Purple Crayon** – by Crockett Johnson. What a simple crayon can draw when one night, an imaginative little boy named Harold draws himself a walk, a moon, a home, and finally his very own bed.
- **The Snowy Day** – by Ezra Jack Keats. One morning Peter wakes up to see that “Snow had fallen during the night.” He excitedly runs outside to play in it, reveling in everything about the snow.
- **Whose Mouse Are You?** – by Robert Kraus. With tender wit, Kraus brings us a young mouse grappling with one of childhood’s harsh experiences: a new sibling in the house. Every young child with a baby sister or brother will commiserate with this young mouse.
- **A Hole is to Dig: A First Book of Definitions** – by Ruth Krauss. This book is filled with simply wonderful things over which to ponder. Maurice Sendak’s small line drawings capture the wistful nature of the children pictured, and all the discoveries of childhood.
- **Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready For Kindergarten** – by Joseph Slate. The whimsical Miss Bindergarten prepares her classroom for her students with an explosion of color – a bouquet of fall leaves, a goldfish, rolled-up posters, and shoeboxes full of delightful surprises.
- **It Happens to Everyone** – by Bernice Myers. Michael isn’t the only one having trouble on the first day of school. Mrs. Daniel can’t decide what to wear, and like Michael, she can’t find things. When they arrive at school, both are nervous and hope they’ll be liked. The final pages show them entering the same classroom, for Mrs. Daniel is Michael’s teacher.

Source: Leslie Barban, Richland County Public Library, and S.C. First Steps

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S.C. First Steps to School Readiness is a comprehensive, results-oriented statewide education initiative to help prepare children to reach school healthy and ready to succeed. Along with partners EdVenture Children’s Museum and Voices for South Carolina’s Children, First Steps designed the Countdown to Kindergarten program to leverage local resources to help transition S.C.’s most at-risk children into kindergarten, target early parent involvement, and increase awareness of the importance of school readiness. Over 1,200 children and their families in 32 S.C. counties are participating in this year’s program. Countdown teachers conduct a series of eight visits to each participating family’s home to prepare the child to start school and open the relationship with the child’s family.

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