

2026 Summer Reading List · PJ–JK

For the youngest readers — from birth through junior kindergarten. All titles are suitable for reading aloud together. Board books, picture books, and counting books are listed together as one curated list. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to explore these titles and connect with your local library to find out what's happening this summer.

BOOKS · 20 TITLES

Counting book

3 2 1 to the Moon! A Counting Book

Stacy McAnulty, illus. Joey Chou

From its rotating cover showing the moon's phases to a final countdown, this quirky introduction to everything lunar features a pastel anthropomorphic moon with twinkling eyes — perfect for young space travelers ready to blast off!

ISBN 9781250381583

Board book

The Bedtime Book

Todd Parr

In true Todd Parr style, this bright and humorous board book shows various animals getting ready for bed and the many reasons they can't get to sleep!

ISBN 9780316427968

Picture book

Big Family Beach Day

Nina Crews

A short and simple picture book depicting a large, extended family spending a fun, love-filled day at the beach. Perfect for summer.

ISBN 9780063390225

Picture book

Blue

Suzanne Kaufman

A child and a great blue heron spend a day together by the water — splashing, chasing, and soaring. You get to decide if it really happened or was all in the child's imagination.

ISBN 9780316311663

Picture book

Broken

X. Fang

Mei Mei accidentally broke Ama's favorite cup! When she decides to blame the innocent cat, her emotions become too much. A gentle story about honesty and feelings.

ISBN 9781774882009

Picture book

Every Monday Mabel

Jashar Awan

Mabel gets up early every Monday — the best day of the week — to sit outside and wait for the garbage truck as it goes from house to house collecting the week's trash.

ISBN 9781665938150

Board book

Flush! Flush! Flush!

Douglas Florian, illus. Christiane Engel

This rhyming board book on potty training shows children with can-do attitudes. Fun, upbeat, and encouraging.

ISBN 9781499817928

Picture book

Home

Matt de la Peña, illus. Loren Long

Where is home? Is it a place? Is it people? De la Peña's lyrical prose and Long's beautiful illustrations show that home is where you are.

ISBN 9780593110898

Picture book

Let's Be Bees

Shawn Harris

A child and parent play a joy-filled game of pretend, imagining all of the things they could be in the animal and natural world.

ISBN 9780823457090

Board book

Maisy's Rocket

Lucy Cousins

A bright rocket-shaped board book featuring everyone's favorite character Maisy on a trip to space.

ISBN 9781536239065

Board book

Nita's Food Signs

Kathy MacMillan, illus. Ekaterina Ladatko

A sturdy board book with sliding flaps features a family using American Sign Language to discuss common toddler foods. A wonderful introduction to ASL.

ISBN 9781641709514

Picture book

The Pigeon Won't Count to Ten!

Mo Willems

Everyone's favorite sassy pigeon unwittingly counts from one to eleven. Mo Willems at his most irresistible.

ISBN 9781454964407

Board book

Ten Little Dinosaur Eggs

Roger Priddy, illus. Samantha Meredith

Raised touch-and-feel eggs, vibrant colors, rhymes, matching fun, and dinosaurs! Everything you need in a board book for summer fun.

ISBN 9781684494552

Picture book

Tiger, Don't Worry!

Daishu Ma

Tiger and Mei want to help their family prepare tea, but their enthusiasm leads to less-than-ideal results. A sweet, funny story about helping.

ISBN 9798895090077

Picture book

To Activate Space Portal, Lift Here

Antoinette Portis

This clever interactive book about aliens is sure to make you laugh. Read and find out who the aliens are when the space portal is open.

ISBN 9780823459858

Board book

Toddler Talk: All Gone!

Illus. by Carolina Búzio

Designed with first phrases related to mealtimes, this board book supports toddlers' language development in a fun, accessible way.

ISBN 9798887771656

Board book

You Deserve Everything

Steph Stilwell

Shaped like a bagel, this circular board book is full of punny affirmations and delightful illustrations. From the creator of Dough Much Love and Pie Love You.

ISBN 9781499817126

Board book

Your Forest

Jon Klassen

Part of the Your Farm and Your Island series, Klassen creates a world built just for you. Whimsical illustrations of common objects — all with eyes — let humor shine through smooth, comforting pacing.

ISBN 9781536230833

Board book

You're My Little Star

Eric Carle

This beloved author's eye-catching touch-and-feel board book features lift-the-flaps, soft animals, and a mirror.

ISBN 9781665984393

Picture book

Zip Zap Wickety Wack: A Story About Sharing

Matthew Diffee

Sheep and Goat each want to be the only animal that says Baaaa. Can they work out their disagreement with the help of the other animals on the farm?

ISBN 9780823458714

DIGITAL RESOURCES

KidLitTV

kidlit.tv

Videos, a podcast, and craft ideas to inspire a love of reading.

PBS Kids

pbskids.org

Videos and games for children ages 2–8 tied to beloved PBS programming.

Small Wonders (for Families)

gse.harvard.edu/apps/early-literacy

Play together with games, songs, and activity ideas from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Available in English and Spanish.