

Summer Reading

The 2009 booklist from Reading Rockets for children up to 3 years old

Beep Beep by Petr Horachek

What better way for a family to travel to grandma's house than by jumping in their yellow car? Though the town, over the crosswalk, down the hill – to their destination: "Beep! Beep!"

Cat by Matthew Van Fleet

There are all kinds of cats – cool, copy, striped, furry, bald, and more. They're shown in all their glory in full color photographs on sturdy, interactive pages that can be touched, unfolded, etc. Playful language and silly humor create a broadly appealing book.

Choo Choo by Petr Horachek

A train of children "chuff" and "choo choo" down the tracks, through a tunnel, and into the sun – until they get to the beach. "Hooray!"

A Garden of Opposites by Nancy Davis

Simple, colorful graphics are used to illustrate paired opposites seen in a garden: short caterpillar and long snake; mama bird asleep, hatched eggs awake, and more, until a final foldout encourages readers to identify even more.

I Know a Lot of Things by Ann & Paul Rand

All children know a lot of things like when "I look in a mirror/what I see is me" and that they will continue to grow and learn. Poetic, child-like realizations combine with strong, uncluttered graphics to affirm and maybe even instruct.

The I Love You Book by Todd Parr

A heart shaped cut out on the front cover invites readers into the book in which child-like illustrations in primary colors depict adults' unconditional love for children. Round-faced, smiling adults love them when they are shy or sharing, stinky or squeaky clean.

Maisy Bakes a Cake by Lucy Cousins

Maisy takes to the kitchen in an apron and with washed hands to bake a cake in this interactive and informative book. She gathers ingredients, measures, mixes, bakes, and decorates. Then best of all, she shares it with her friend!

Oscar and the Bat by Geoff Waring

Oscar, a young cat, learns from his friend Bat that "our ears help us know what's around us, even when our eyes can't." Thus begins a fascinating sound adventure filled with information in an attractive format.

Planet Earth: Baby Penguins by Scholastic

This appealing, sturdy book presents photographs of emperor penguin chicks (and adults) going about their daily business of fishing, cuddling, and generally taking care of one another. It is sure to create warm feelings regardless of the snowy landscape.

Please Pick Me Up, Mama! by Robin Luebs

A young raccoon seeks attention from her ever-patient mother. She wants to be held then put down throughout their day together, until the youngster whispers "good night." Soft illustrations in warm hues show their cozy world and affectionate relationship.

Seymour & Henry by Kim Lewis

When their mother tells them their day of play is about to end, two ducklings run away – "pit-a-pat" – until it starts to rain. Gentle illustrations depict the appealing toy duck family on their gentle outing,

Shake It Up, Baby! by Karen Katz

Chubby, rounded children in bright colors wish and swish, shake and bang in this sturdy board book with its built-in rattle. The rattle adds to the playfulness, though the language alone will get the young children moving.

